
OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

OF

FRANKLIN PEALE, ESQ.,

CHIEF COINER OF THE MINT.

THE PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE LATE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT,
IN RELATION TO
THE OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT
OF
FRANKLIN PEALE, ESQ.,
CHIEF COINER,
AND OTHER ABUSES IN THE MINT.

REVIEWED BY
Richard
PROF. R. S. McCULLOH,
FORMERLY THE MELTER AND REFINER OF THE MINT.

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY:

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THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE,

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REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE

APRIL 1870.

REVIEW.

It is with reluctance that I make the following publication, for I hoped that it might not have become requisite. While I was in the Mint, I refused to suffer the coiner, Mr. Peale, to trade upon the bullion in my custody. He obliged me to discuss the matter in official correspondence, (See Exhibits Nos. 1 to 5, of the Appendix,) and I, therefore, became an object of his resentment.

Before I left the Mint, I introduced improvements, by the use and enlargement of which, its capacity for refining the gold from California has been extended from \$100,000 to several millions of dollars per month. After I resigned, I offered to the Government an additional improvement, which I had discovered; and the melter and refiner, Prof. Booth, sought to acquire an interest in the prospective profits, by means, which I believe to have been legally fraudulent and morally wrong.

The vindictiveness of one of those officers, and the disappointed covetousness of the other, became the bonds of an union to assail my professional reputation, by imperfect and mismanaged trials of the new method of refining offered by me to the Government, conducted in the Mint, contrary to my known wishes, and without my presence. Such trials were persisted in, even after I had protested against them, and an order had been given, at my solicitation, by the Secretary of the Treasury, that said method should be justly tried in my presence and under my direction. That order had been met with a refusal to obey it; and I, therefore, called upon the President to complain, that I had been wronged, and that important public interests had been disregarded.

I impeached the motives of the parties who had acted in such a manner; asked that he would direct the representations I made to him to be investigated; and, at his request, gave him in writing (Appendix No. 6) the substance of what I had communicated orally.

When, consequently, the President had ordered an investigation to be made by the late Director of the Mint, I permitted myself to imagine that the order would have been faithfully executed, and that truth and justice would have prevailed.

To those who know what has since been the official career of that Director, it might perhaps appear that, in indulging such anticipations, I evinced a simplicity which would not do credit to my understanding. But he had just been appointed to office, and was not known to me. I extended to him, therefore, a limited confidence, and trusted that he

would have had more regard for his own reputation, than willingness to shelter the guilt of others ; and that he would have consulted the obligations of duty, rather than a mistaken and imprudent policy. No could I foresee, that after a few days only, the moral power of the influence which placed him in office would be stricken down and paralyzed by a misfortune, to which it would not be generous to allude more plainly ; and that he would, therefore, be left weak and unsupported to be deluded by those upon whose misconduct in office he had been ordered to sit in judgment.

If a director of the Mint when officially required to investigate misdemeanors, may seek to conceal and extenuate them. If guilty subordinates may be protected by mock trials. If a citizen may not even respectfully complain of wrongs, when his own rights and public interests are trampled upon. If presents may be made to the President of the United States, or to members of his Cabinet, at the cost of the public treasury. If under any pretext, it matters not what, the bullion, the workmen and the machinery of the mint may be used by an officer, without authority of law, for carrying on an extensive traffic for his private gain. If the public work may be interfered with for such purposes. If workmen of the mint, in whom honesty and virtue are of the highest importance, may be required or persuaded to become instrumental to such abuses. If they may be subjected to the humiliation of menial servitude, instead of being treated with the respect due to American freemen. If the public money may be wasted uselessly, lavishly, and without appropriation ; and if every officer of the mint who may not see fit to countenance such proceedings is, therefore, to be incommoded in the performance of his duties, and assailed with falsehood and intrigue,—then, for such a state of things, I know no remedy so appropriate as exposure. For, if I do not greatly mistake the sense of the citizens of our country, they demand that the management of their affairs, domestic and foreign, should be confided to men of integrity. And, when public servants have been so long accustomed to do wrong with impunity, that there is no probability of their amendment, and have ceased to be restrained by either the promptings of duty, the feeling of shame, the reproaches of conscience, or the fear of punishment, then it is time to see whether they cannot be influenced by the power of public opinion.

It is my intention, at present, to expose particularly those abuses by the coiner of the Mint, Mr. Peale, to which I referred in the charges against him which were to have been investigated. The misconduct of the melter and refiner, Prof. Booth, I have already discussed in a memorial to the Congress, and in a printed letter to the late Secretary of the Treasury ; and as he has published a reply, I will do him the justice to pay proper attention thereto.

Moreover, it seems that I have not only been so disobliging as to have declined to let one officer of the Mint trade upon gold or silver entrusted to me therein ; so arrogant as to have contemned the official favor and influence of another, graciously condescending to exchange a valueless for a valuable consideration ; and so perverse as to have made trouble about such trifles ; but I have also (and of this Prof. Booth complains) been so malignant and mischievous as to have openly maintained that the business of the Mint has not been justly and pro-

perly managed ; that those who have disregarded private rights have also been unmindful of public duties ; and that even depositors of bullion have been defrauded by charges for work which was never performed, and by systematic filchings of petty sums by which the contingent fund of the Mint has been so largely augmented that the late director, in a report communicated to the Senate, (page 10, S. Doc. 21, 2d. Sess. 32d Cong.) said : " It is a manifest observation that if the Mint should be deprived of the authority to use the balances of gain accruing from its operations in separating, or on the three-cent coinage, our appropriations would have to be enlarged precisely in proportion to the means thus taken from it." But what is the so-called "*authority*" of which the Mint should not be deprived ? Merely that of *expending money without appropriation, contrary to the provisions of the Constitution, and of making exactions from depositors in violation of law* ; for the profits of the three-cent coinage were not appropriated, and section 18 of the act of Congress, relative to the Mint, approved January 18, 1837, had proscribed that no charge to a depositor should " exceed the actual expense to the Mint of the materials and labor employed."

But is it a matter of so little moment if depositors be wronged, or if public money be expended illegally, that other offences must be pointed out before it can be believed and admitted that the Mint has not been managed with profound wisdom and matchless purity ? Let it be shown then, that the commercial interests of the country have been trifled with, that even the coin has been debased (made of gold adulterated with more copper than the proportion designated by the laws of the United States) ; and that this charge of debasement of the coin, first insinuated by an anonymous writer in a newspaper, and then denied most positively by the director of the Mint, in a published letter of Nov. 24, 1849, to a member of Congress ; next revived in letters from the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, while minister in England, and contradicted in an official communication by the director of the Mint to the Secretary of the Treasury, bearing date April 2d, 1852, and published in the National Intelligencer of April 7, 1852 ; was finally made responsibly on the floor of the Senate by one of the senators from California, which led to an inquiry by the Senate, in answer to which *it was confessed by the director of the Mint*, in a report which will be found in Sen. Doc. No. 21. 2d Sess. 32d Congress !

Who can learn such things without indignation ? Are they false allegations ? Then let this be proved, and let me be deemed infamous for asserting them. But the facts are of record, and cannot be denied. Let Philadelphia, therefore, be true to herself and the nation. Let her purge the Mint of impurity, and administer with fidelity that trust of which she has been the honored guardian.

The aforesaid pamphlet of Prof. Booth was, I presume, both published and circulated with the sanction and concurrence of the late director of the Mint, and of others connected with that institution. In it he has assumed to speak not only in his own behalf, but also in that of the Mint ; and his course has met with at least the silent acquiescence of the officers generally. There are among them gentlemen whom I have believed to be worthy men, and therefore have respected ; and for whom, as my former associates, I have felt sincere friendship. Yet, even these must excuse me if I cannot suffer the

name of the Mint to be used to assail my reputation as a means of shielding the guilt of others. To their unworthy colleagues, and not to me, are their reproaches due, if the errors of the past are to be exposed and censured.

And as one of the alleged reasons for the issue of the Booth pamphlet professing to be a "reply to Mr. M'Culloh's writings and publications generally," is therein stated to be "because a portion of the press has drawn false deductions from his statements, relating as they do to technical operations which are not generally understood, and has impeached the accuracy of the Mint accounts and the integrity of its issues," it will not be forgotten, I trust, who gave this challenge. The Mint is responsible for such a publication by one of its officers. And unless I shall see reason to change my purpose, I will shortly proceed to establish, and probably in the columns of that "portion of the press" which is charged with having "drawn false deductions" from my "statements," that the deductions are legitimate, the statements true, and that the Mint needs thorough *reformation*.

I would submit the Appendix without comment, if it did not contain errors which should be pointed out and corrected.

In the letter of the late Director of the Mint, Dr. Eckert, to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated 29th January, 1853 (No. 29, App.), he states that he informed me that the investigation he was required to make "was to be solely for the satisfaction of his own mind." In this he is mistaken. Had I even have imagined such to have been his intention, I would have regarded it as a purpose to shrink from the performance of duty, and would have requested the President to place him under positive orders to pursue a very different course. Is there the slightest probability that I would have consented that the mental "satisfaction" of Dr. Eckert, or that of any other man, should be the criterion of the truth or falsity of charges, concerning which I had assumed the responsibility of adducing proof by testimony?

In the same letter, Dr. Eckert also professes to have formed his opinion "more by the general impression left on his mind" than from the testimony; which he declined to transmit to the Treasury Department, upon the grounds that it is incomplete, and that even if it were complete, he did "not think it would be just to offer it to scrutiny by third parties, because the testimony was entirely *ex parte*, the witnesses (with one exception) those named by the accusing party, and no witnesses asked for, or offered by the accused party, who was ignorant that such examination was made, and had, therefore, no opportunity of cross examination."

Now, after I had received the letter of Dr. Eckert to me, dated August 22d, 1851 (No. 10 of the Appendix), in which he requested that the general charges (with one exception) preferred against Mr. Peale might be "specially detailed in writing," I went to the mint for the purpose of ascertaining what mode of proceeding he proposed to follow, that I might shape my action accordingly. And I then respectfully suggested to him that he should extend to the parties accused every opportunity of defence; that they had rights which should be respected, even though they were guilty; that they ought to receive copies of the charges preferred against them respectively, and of specifications of the facts upon which said charges were based, and which I offered to furnish; that *ex parte* proceedings would neither be just towards the

nor proper in himself; and that they were entitled to answer, to confront and cross-examine witnesses, to produce rebutting evidence, and even to be aided by counsel. He replied, as I recollect, that he "supposed it would rest with the Secretary of the Treasury and himself to decide how he should conduct the investigation." I admitted his right to elect what course he would pursue, but avowed that the one I had suggested seemed to me to be the only one in which I could with propriety be concerned as a responsible accusing party.

The Director never extended to me the opportunity of furnishing specifications and evidence to substantiate the charges which I preferred against Professor Booth, and which he was ordered to investigate. He prejudged the case, and made a report upon it in advance.

Concerning the misconduct of the coiner, Mr. Peale, the late Director confesses himself (No. 39, Appendix) to have been "incompetent to pursue such an inquiry in that legal method which alone could present the case in a fit form to enable the department or the public at large to elicit the truth for themselves." And he assures the Treasury Department that "if it is dissatisfied" with his proceedings, he "would sincerely regret to have involved it in trouble on this account, and can see no just course of procedure except to order a legal commission to take testimony in a legal form."

If, therefore, he was, as he says, "incompetent," and this publication has become necessary; if odium may attach to his *ex parte* proceedings; and if they whom he sought to shelter, and feared to offend, shall find that they have cause to regret that the record of their actions may be read by others besides the few who have access to the files of the Mint, it is to the late Director that the responsibility belongs. And though they may hereafter wish that private justice rather than public judgment had befallen them, yet, certainly, neither of them can have cause to reproach him with want of generosity, who was willing to conceal their guilt, even at the expense of his own reputation.

After I had been requested to specify the facts relative to the charges which I had preferred against the coiner, Mr. Peale, I sought statements of their knowledge in writing from those whom I believed to be competent to testify concerning those facts; I explained to them that it was my intention to use their statements for the purpose of framing specifications to be submitted to the Director of the Mint for investigation; and I informed them that they would probably be called upon to give testimony, which, I presumed, would be taken under oath, and with cross-examination.

This course I pursued because I considered it a duty to take all possible care and precaution to prevent even the slightest discrepancy between the specifications to be prepared by me and the testimony which I supposed would have been so taken. And the written statements which were then accordingly given to me, with authority to use them as I might deem fit, and which, therefore, I now publish—(see the Appendix)—constitute in my hands evidence to show that the late Director of the Mint, when he made his report of July 13, 1852, to the Treasury Department—(see Appendix No. 27)—in relation to the charges against Mr. Peale, saw fit to take leave of the facts of the case, and to consult rather his "satisfaction of his own mind" than the dictates of justice.

If it be borne in mind that the persons who testify against Mr. Peale have been employed in the Mint, and that most of them are still workmen in the coining department, subject to his authority and immediate control; who would certainly lose their places if they dared to say anything false concerning his conduct in office, it will be evident that to the probability of the evidence substantially furnished by their written statements, the solemnity of an oath and the sifting of cross-examination would have added but little.

Among the charges preferred, there is one of which Dr. Eckert did find Mr. Peale guilty; and he so reported, in his letter to the Secretary of the Treasury of July 13, 1852, (See No. 27 App.) in the following terms: "I do, however, find it to be true that Mr. Peale has, at different times, received the services of workmen in the mint, while under pay of the Government, for his private benefit; and, he is, on that account amenable to that particular charge by Mr. McCulloch of appropriation to his own benefit or gain of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled."

But, having thus pronounced him guilty, the late Director then immediately and incorrectly explains as follows: "The work thus done was in the occasional repair of furniture and in the performance of trifling jobs at his (rented) house. In stating this fact, it is but just that I should refer to some additional circumstances, which may be offered in extenuation."

If reference be made to the appended statements, (Nos. 21, 23, 24,) it will be seen that furniture for Mr. Peale's dwelling was not only repaired but manufactured in the mint; and that the miscellaneous work done for his benefit amounted to something more than "occasional repairs of furniture, and the performance of trifling jobs at his (rented) house."

The alleged additional circumstances offered in extenuation by Dr. Eckert are: that formerly the workmen of the mint "had much idle time;" that "since the time of the men has been fully occupied, by the receipts from California, no services of the kind referred to have been asked for or rendered;" and that "the gratuitous and extra-official services rendered by Mr. Peale to the mint, in preparing designs and drafts for new machinery, patterns, &c. for the mint and its branches, very far exceed in value any private services complained of, and should be taken into consideration in any estimate formed of his conduct, from the transactions referred to."

If the workmen formerly had leisure and relaxation, I cannot see that the coiner was, therefore, entitled to claim from them "the occupancy of time, which would otherwise have been spent in idleness," as Dr. Eckert has been pleased to call it. And if "that is not a good rule, which does not work both ways," might not they, his fellow citizens, as properly have demanded of him reciprocal favors, for he had more leisure than they, the chief duties of his office having been performed by another, so that he was pre-eminently a man who "had much idle time." Probably, however, the right of Mr. Peale to the "occupancy" of the workmen may have been founded only upon "official self-respect" or his "experience in the institutions of Europe."

If it were true that, as Dr. Eckert alleges, the men became "fully occupied by the receipts from California," would it not have been

very extenuating if Mr. Peale had therefore foreborne to avail himself of the "occupancy" of their time? Is there not some virtue in necessity? But has not the Director overlooked the fact that Mr. Peale did not suffer the "receipts from California" to interrupt his profitable medal trade, or failed to learn that Messrs. Canby & Tompkins did jobs for his benefit, after the heavy influx of gold from California?

Before Dr. Eckert ventured to set up the plea of gratuitous and extra-official services rendered "by Mr. Peale in preparing designs and drafts," in off-set to that "occupancy" of the workmen, he might as well have ascertained whether the making of a drawing by the coiner of the mint is really an extra-official act, for which he should receive extra compensation, and have referred to the accounts of the Treasurer's office to learn what payments have been made to Mr. Peale for drawings. Nor would it have been irrelative in this question of equity to have reflected, that for a number of years, Mr. Peale drew the salary of the office of coiner, while the late Adam Eckfeldt continued to perform its principal and most laborious duties, without remuneration, it will, I presume, be admitted, either from Mr. Peale or the Government.

But even if Mr. Peale may have made *some* drawings, extra-officially and gratuitously, has he had reason to complain of inadequate compensation? Was the salary which he legally received so small? And were the profits of the medal trade, which he has illegally carried on, so insufficient, that he ought to have been allowed the "occupancy" of the workmen, or other "*pickings*" to eke out what he found requisite in his domestic economy, or desired for the gratification of his taste and fancy?

The reply of Mr. Peale to the charges preferred by me against him (No. 30 App.) commences with a thankful acknowledgment to Dr. Eckert, for having extended to him the opportunity of answering them. Will he now also feel thankful to that gentleman for having withheld from him the privilege of confronting and examining witnesses? I presume he will, for it was necessary not to make serious work of it.

After a polite introduction, Mr. Peale proceeds to accuse me of having made "an untrue allegation," to which he invites particular attention, "as it will be seen that the motives which influenced Mr. McCulloh are malicious, and that his charges are made in revenge." In proof of which he undertook to quote what I had, as he affirms, *untruly alleged*, but in doing so, he saw fit to drop a very material portion of the sentence and charge. I give it here correctly, and the words *italicized* are those which were ignored by him. (See No. 6 Appendix.) "I refer to the coiner of the mint, Franklin Peale, to whose personal hostility to myself, the result of my having refused, while I was an officer of the mint, to furnish him facilities for carrying on an unjustifiable traffic, and mysterious influence with the late Director, many of the obstacles to the introduction into the mint of my improved method are, I am satisfied, ascribable." It suited his convenience and purpose to suppress that portion of this charge, which

he could not even venture to deny, and the proof of which he knew to be of record.

But to sustain his position, (No. 30 App.) Mr. Peale says:—"I now assert most positively, and without reserve, that no opposing influence whatever has been attempted by me in reference to the refining process of Mr. McCulloh;" and he professes to have earnestly desired the success of any process, by which the facilities of the Mint could be increased, and to have felt regret when he "learned that the experiments by Mr. McCulloh's process had not given satisfaction." After which, Mr. Peale adds:—"It is, perhaps, unnecessary for me to adduce proof on this subject, in the absence of any testimony offered other than Mr. McCulloh's unsupported assertion. I, however, send herewith a letter from the late Director, in which he explicitly states that I always expressed a favorable opinion of the process, and that he does not recollect to have heard from me a single suggestion adverse to the plan." Lastly, Mr. Peale affects to believe the "mysterious influence" to have been "the friendship which began with our fathers, twenty-five or thirty years ago, sixteen of which have been passed in the mutual relations of Director and operative officer of the Mint;" and he professes to feel sentiments which may be mysterious to Mr. McCulloh."

Now, what does Mr. Peale mean to deny, when he thus avers that, in using the words he cited, I made "an untrue allegation?" That *I was not*, as I professed to be, *satisfied*, that many of the obstacles to the introduction into the mint of my improved method of refining were ascribable to his personal hostility to myself, and mysterious influence with the Director? If he does not mean this, then he has no right to impute to me the making of an untrue allegation, in the language which I employed. If he does mean it, I should like to know by what sort of proof he would refute a profession concerning a mental conviction?

Probably, however, he simply intended to plead not guilty to *the minor part* of the charge; to ascribe it to malice; to appeal to sympathy; to insinuate breach of veracity; and to fortify himself against an "unsupported assertion" by his own denial, apparently sustained by the testimony of a respectable witness.

But this attempt of Mr. Peale to adduce a letter from Dr. Patterson, in evidence, cannot fail to recoil upon him; for it is one of those acts which show how unscrupulous he has been in the use made of that "friendship" to which he pretends. Who that knows to what a degree of feeble health that amiable gentleman has been reduced for some time past, would not regard it as unjustifiable to have cited him as a witness in any case? Was it right—was it generous—was it just—to have exposed him to the risk of having the validity of his statement questioned? A true friend would have hesitated to resort to such inconsiderate means of self defence, even if assailed much more gravely than with an "unsupported assertion."

As for the letter itself, I do not believe that Dr. Patterson was the author of it, though he was, doubtless, induced to sign it. If this be so, how lost to all feeling and sense of shame must that man be who could make such use of him, for whom he professes friendship and unbounded esteem.

With reference to my having neglected to produce evidence to substantiate the first of the charges preferred by me against Mr. Peale, in my letter to the President of August 1, 1851, (No. 6 App.); and having permitted it, therefore, to pass as an "unsupported assertion," I have only to say, that the Director of the Mint saw fit not to call upon me to specify the facts, and furnish the evidence relative to that charge. I had preferred charges, and had asked that they should all be investigated; but in his letter to me of August 22d, 1851, (No. 10 App.) requesting me to present the facts and testimony of other charges, Dr. Eckert omitted to do so with reference to that particular one. This omission I considered then, and do still believe, to have been intentional and prompted by kind forbearance. I presumed that Dr. Eckert did not wish to look into the details of that "mysterious influence with the late Director," to which I had referred. I respected his apparently generous purpose, and tacitly acquiesced therein, by forbearing to array the facts in evidence.

And, if I was not mistaken in imputing to Dr. Eckert such considerate feeling, he evinced more regard for the reputation of his predecessor, than has been done by the professed friend who has sought to bring him forth, in his weakened state, to give vague negative testimony against a slumbering but not retracted charge, in which the propriety of his own official actions was impeached. The one was to him a stranger; the other pretends to a friendship of twenty-five or thirty years, cemented by sixteen years of official association. Against such a friend, how much was protection needed!

As I forebore to specify the facts, and adduce evidence in proof of the charge in question, I shall not now pursue a different course. Were I to do so, I, too, might justly be deemed inconsiderate of an afflicted man.

Yet I have asserted that Mr. Peale had a "mysterious influence with" Dr. Patterson; and this assertion is not to be recalled. The reader who will carefully examine the evidence in the case of Mr. Peale's interference with the engraver of the Mint, Mr. Longacre, will not, I think, find it difficult to believe that there was such an influence mysterious in its power to mislead;—the deluding influence of a subordinate, who, beginning with humble suggestions, and meek professions of unbounded esteem, friendship and submission, had at last attained to the practice of petulant and imperious dictation, and could not be content with usurped authority, without seeking to use it for the accomplishment of unworthy purposes.

That it may appear what weight is to be attached to an assertion of Mr. Peale, I will narrate an incident which took place while I was an officer of the Mint. The services of an additional workman were needed in the melting department, and I had been authorized by the Director to nominate to him a suitable person. Among the applicants for the position there was a young married man, whose grandfather had been, and whose father and uncle, each then was a highly esteemed workman of the Mint; and he had himself been employed, while a boy, in the coining department, under Mr. Peale. Of this young man I thought favorably; and among the testimonials which he brought to me, there was one written some years previously by Mr. Peale, signed by him and the late Adam Eckfeldt, and which certified to the honesty and

worth of the young man. His father informed me that it had been given to aid him in procuring a situation in a store, about a month after he had been discharged from the Mint by Mr. Peale; and that this discharge of his son had not been occasioned by any improper behavior, but took place in consequence of a determination of the coin^{er} not to have boys in the Mint.

I therefore went to Mr. Peale and inquired of him what he knew of the young man. He replied that he could tell me in a very few words, that he did not wish much said about it, but that he had discharged him for stealing. My answer was: "It is very strange, sir, then, that he has brought me a certificate of his honesty in your own handwriting, signed by yourself and Mr. Eckfeldt." I drew the certificate from my pocket and showed it to him. He then said: "this was given to him before he was discharged;" to which I replied: "it is dated, the books of the Mint will show the time of his discharge, and I will refer to them." I made the reference, and found that the certificate bore date about a month *after* the young man had been discharged, which confirmed what his father had said to me, and refuted the calumny of Mr. Peale, whom I then invited to look at the book with me and compare the dates for himself. He declined to do so, remarking that he did not care about the matter, and that "the truth was, there never had been a boy in the Mint who did not steal."

The young man was of course employed, as an act of justice; and shortly afterwards Mr. Peale placed him upon the night watch, a duty of trust and extra compensation. If he had believed what he told me, he could not justifiably have done this. Therefore, I formed of him an opinion which I have not since had reason to alter.

To justify his wasteful expenditure of the public money, without adequate appropriation or useful effect, Mr. Peale seeks to take shelter under the responsibility of the Director of the Mint and of the accounting officers of the Treasury Department. He says: that it is the Director who "gives a warrant for the payment of every bill;" and that "all the operative officer can properly do is to suggest or recommend to the Director the objects of expenditure." Was Dr. Patterson then, and not Mr. Peale, the responsible person? Yet, he knew that the practice of the Mint has been such as to have rendered the warrant of the Director a mere formality, a piece of paper to be signed, often after the transaction, and usually in faith. That when a bill was presented for payment, it was customary to send it to "the operative officer" to be endorsed with his signature and the word "correct;" and that it then went to the Treasurer's office to be paid by the clerks. There are thousands of such endorsed Mint vouchers on file in the Treasury Department. The Director usually was neither consulted, nor did he know what payments and purchases were made; warrants were signed by him by the hundred, in implicit confidence that they were all right; and if the law vested in him the legal authority of making expenditures, it was delegated to and exercised ministerially by the operative officer.

But Mr. Peale further remarks, (No. 30 App.): "that the Mint expenses are examined by the auditing and comptrolling departments

at Washington, whose duty it is to see that they are in conformity to law. To assert that a Mint officer has expended money without adequate appropriation is to charge a gross neglect of duty upon those departments." If this should meet the eyes of the Comptroller and First Auditor, I respectfully commend it to their attention. For I do charge positively, whether this charge does or does not imply neglect of duty on the part of any one, that the Mint has expended money without appropriation.

Were not the profits of the three-cent coins, each of which were made to contain silver to the amount of two and a half cents only, used by the mint without appropriation? The Director of the Mint, in his estimate of Nov. 8, 1852, (See page 66, Estimates of Appropriations,) states that "the profits on the coinage of three-cents during the same time, (from Oct. 1, 1852 to June 30, 1853,) may be estimated at \$70,000." A call was made by the Senate, (page 2, Sen. Doc. No. 21, 2d Sess. 32d Cong) upon the Secretary of the Treasury to state "by what act of appropriation or authority of law, the profits of the coinage of silver three-cent coins are used by the Mint to defray its contingent expenses." In reply, the Secretary communicated a report from the Director of the Mint, who therein says, (page 10, S. D. No. 21,) that those profits were appropriated by a "formula" of vague words, "other available funds," inserted into the appropriation. But the Director goes further and informs the Congress that, after he had inserted that "formula," and it had been "laid before" the Committee of Ways and Means, "if there was any irregularity or illegality in the use of them, [the said profits,] the committee seem not to have discovered it or made it known." And he then remarks, that "if the Mint should be deprived of the authority to use the balances of gain accruing from its operations in separating, or on the three-cent coinage, our appropriations would have to be enlarged precisely in proportion to the means thus taken from it."

What assurance is here displayed! A director of the Mint ventures to tell the Congress, that if the Constitution has given to them the guardianship of the public purse, he has eluded their vigilance; and that by inserting the words "other available funds" into an estimate for the appropriation of a comparatively small sum, he has acquired the "authority" as he calls it, to use an additional amount of more than \$70,000 without its being exposed, if detected, by their Committee of Ways and Means. And he reminds them, that if this does not suit them, appropriations will have to be asked for openly.

I respectfully ask the Comptroller of the Treasury, in what *legal sense* can those profits properly be regarded to have been *available*; and what did the Director of the Mint mean by his *formula*, "other available funds," except any money he could lay his hands upon, within his reach and not covered by warrant into the U. S Treasury, (as those profits were not, *but should have been*,) together, as he acknowledges, (page 6, S. D. 21,) the aggregate filchings of small sums from numerous deposits; a practice shown to have been extensively carried on, by the confessions made and published in the same Senate document.

What the Congress thought of this matter, is also evident from the fact (see Statutes at Large, page 197,) that they consequently inserted

into the section of the Act of appropriation for civil and diplomatic expenses, approved March 3d, 1853, providing for the incidental and contingent expenses of the Mint at Philadelphia, the following words: "It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of the Mint, to cause to be paid annually into the Treasury of the United States, the profits of the Mint, and to present a quarterly account of the expenditures of the Mint to the Secretary of the Treasury."

As, therefore, a Mint officer may justly be charged with having used money without appropriation, I return from this digression to the particular expenditures of Mr. Peale, of which he says that he is "willing to assume the responsibility and stand ready to justify."

He confesses (No. 30, App.) that he may have expended more than the \$20,800, appropriated by Congress for certain alterations made in the Mint; but pleads that if he did, it was owing to an erroneous estimate. Which, however, was originally presented as one which had been carefully prepared by himself. (See Nos. 19 and 20, App.) He says, it is not charged that the expenditures actually made were for a useless or improper object, or that they were extravagant in their cost; yet the charge relative to them certainly was "lavish and unnecessary expenditure of public money, without adequate appropriation or useful effect." But as he has not perceived "in what possible way he is concerned to defend himself from the allegation," I am willing to "pass on to consider the other cited instances."

He pretends, that the introduction of cast steel rolls, was the cause of the uselessness of the large lathe; which "must have cost the government, at the lowest calculation \$2,000, had a trial, and was found not to answer the purpose which it was intended for." (See No. 21, App.) And he asserts (No. 30, App.) that "it will be found sometimes necessary for repairs, and forms an important part of Mint machinery," though it never did, and probably never will, work usefully or successfully.

The "steam drawbench," he says, "did not prove sufficiently manageable. It was therefore altered, and is now in satisfactory use at the Charlotte Branch Mint." But a machinist of the Mint states, (No. 21, App.) that "judging from the time it was making, it must have cost the government 1,500 or 2,000 dollars. It was tried, but would not answer; it was then deposited in the loft as useless and good for nothing." Some of the pieces may have been afterwards used for fitting up an ordinary draw-bench for the Charlotte Mint. But the peculiar machinery of this "steam draw-bench" consisted, I have been told, in a piston moving in a cylinder, mounted on a frame, as in the horizontal steam engine, and pulling by means of the piston rod a strip through a collar, in the usual manner, or as in wire-drawing. As soon as the strip was out of the collar, resistance being removed, the piston was driven, it is said, by the steam with great force against the end of the cylinder; producing a violent concussion and rendering accident and even danger imminent; inducing Mr. Peale to conclude that his machine "did not prove sufficiently manageable," and causing the name of "Peale's steam gun," to be given to it by the workmen.

Of the costly moulds and pouring apparatus for large ingots, copied after those of the British Mint, Mr. Peale admits that they were not adapted to the rolling machinery, without seeming to perceive, that he

therein confesses that they were practically useless, and that the large sum which he paid to his relative, Mr. Sellers, for them, was a waste of the public money.

He seems to think I ought to feel ashamed of having even alluded to his noisy sofa, the trumpet blasts from the seat of which may, he says, be useful to "sound an alarm;" but which, I presume from what I have heard, were rather designed to terrify children and disturb the nerves of female visitors. As he is entitled to the gratitude of his country for having furnished the Mint with so useful a piece of machinery, I will let it pass with the remark, that the statements of others (No. 21, 24, App.) show it to have been more costly than he pretends, and that it was not made chiefly with his own hands.

Of his "model balance," as Mr. Peale calls it, the stand, which he says is "of cast iron and of simple design," consists, I am informed, of about 150 pieces. It also appears (No. 21, App.) that this "pair of scales" probably did not "cost less than 1,800 or 2,000 dollars, there being much "unnecessary work upon them." A better balance might certainly have been purchased for less money, and which would have been as useful and as suitable for weighing coins to be delivered to the treasurer.

The charge of having wasted the public money being, as Mr. Peale imagined, so easily disposed of, we next find him, apparently conscious of the fact that the director had no purpose to investigate his misconduct, yielding to the force of habit, and in relation to this subject of balances displaying his love for self-glorification.

"In this matter," he says, "I boldly claim to have done for the Mint and my country, much that will entitle me to gratitude." Then, in general terms, he refers, as usual, to his "special mission in Europe in relation to the whole field of Mint operations and collateral subjects." (Concerning which, if I were disposed to travel again out of the record, I might not find it difficult to show that the missionary had better have staid at home.) Next, he tells us how acutely he "saw the indispensable importance" of balances for weighing; and how he "gave to this important subject his best powers of reflection and experiment." And he proclaims the result to have been, that he "produced balances, made from his own drawings, and under his personal inspection, which, after trial in daily use for many years, have been found entirely satisfactory to a degree, he is confident, hitherto unattained in any other country." Having thus informed us what is the *value received*, for which he draws at sight upon the gratitude of his country, he gives us to understand that he has not been already paid, and that his labors "have been freely bestowed without charge or compensation, or other benefit to himself personally, than results from the confidence and satisfaction which result from their use."

After reading this, a stranger might almost suppose that he did not love money; that he never availed himself of the "occupancy" of the workmen; that he has not trafficked in medals; that he never drew the salary of an office of which the laborious duties were chiefly performed by another; and even that, if he had given complimentary

presents to the President, Vice-President, Attorney General, or others, he would not have caused payment for them to be made out of the public money.

But the gentleman has indulged himself in fiction and grandiloquence. For there happens to have been formerly employed in the Mint a very eminent machinist and philosophical instrument maker, by the name of Saxton, who has since been engaged under the superintendence of Prof. A. D. Bache, at Washington, in contriving, making and repairing instruments for the various operations of the U. S. Coast Survey, as well as in the construction of those admirable standard balances, weights and measures, which Congress has ordered to be distributed to the several States and presented to European governments. To this gentleman, a man of modest worth and of great mechanical skill and ingenuity, the excellence of the balances of the Mint is, I believe, principally due. To those able machinists also, who assisted Mr. Saxton, and who, after he went to Washington, made balances for the coining department, under Mr. Peale's general orders, credit is to be given.

But I will be more specific with reference to this matter, as it concerns others as well as Mr. Peale. He knows, that with the assay balances, (made by Mr. Saxton, *in London*, with the exception of three, which were brought unfinished to this country,) he had little to do, except his having insisted that the knife edges should be fastened to the beam without any means of adjusting them; which caused much difficulty and rendered it necessary to adjust them by fitting them to the ends of the beam, and filing those ends, a troublesome and uncertain operation. He knows that the beam of the silver balance in the weighing room was sent to the Mint from Washington, by the late Mr. Hassler; that Mr. Saxton wished to mount it on two columns with the index between; and that he insisted on a square hollow column, or rather on the four columns of which that hollow column virtually consists, under the pretext of economy. He knows that Mr. Saxton constructed the gold balance in the same room; the beam of which is mounted on two columns with the index between; and that all he had originally to do with that balance is, that he designed the small bracket, which supports the central knife-edge and the iron foot of the table. He knows, that he interfered with Mr. Saxton less, and let him have his own way, in making the adjusting balance, except in the repeated expression of fears that it would cost too much, which prevented that gentleman from making it as complete in some respects as he desired to do. And he also knows, that the novel and ingenious method employed for bringing the knife-edges into parallelism and the same plane, which is so essential, is due to Mr. Saxton. To the balance in the room of the melter and refiner, made in Washington by Mr. Saxton, I presume he will lay no claim. I might show what is due to others besides Mr. Saxton, and especially to those machinists who aided him, but having rendered it evident, that neither the article published by Mr. Peale in the Journal of the Franklin Institute, nor his pretensions in his reply to the charges preferred by me, would be sufficient to secure to him the credit of whatever is admirable in the Mint balances, I presume that I have presented enough of detail.

Having praised himself, Mr. Peale proceeds to reproach me for having "hunted up the single instance in which ornament has been introduced," and for not having "seen seventy or eighty others, in which there is no ornament whatever, save beauty of fitness." He includes, I presume, in this array, all the little pairs of scales used in the adjusting room, most of which have been made since I left the Mint; and which, it is therefore physically true, that I could not see. I am willing to praise *some* of the balances of the Mint, as highly perhaps as Mr. Peale, and I have no wish to detract from anything which is praise-worthy. But let justice be done. It has been too much the practice to pretend that he alone is entitled to all that displays ingenuity and mechanical skill in the coining apparatus and operations of the Mint. Let him have whatever fraction he can justly claim, but not seek rudely to grasp the whole. Let credit be given to all to whom it is due, to his predecessor, and to the accomplished machinists of the Mint and of the city of Philadelphia, who have constructed the machinery, as well as to the officers by whose orders it was from time to time made.

For the present or presents given upon the occasion of President Polk's visit to the Mint, it is confessed that payment was demanded and obtained out of the contingent fund of the Mint. This was the gravamen of my charge; and I pronounced the proceeding, as I do still, "unofficerlike and demoralizing;" especially as a workman, Mr. Hall, was instrumental thereto.

Concerning the details of this disreputable transaction, unimportant issues are, however, brought forward by Mr. Peale in his attempt at a defence. He contends that "the occasion was an appropriate one," and that "it is certainly a very bold charge that a proceeding was 'unofficerlike and demoralizing,' which took place in the presence of the President, Vice-President, Attorney General, and other Government officers, as well as of the Director of the Mint." It is irrelative whether the occasion was or was not appropriate; and the President certainly would have considered it "unofficerlike and demoralizing," not to strike a medal, which was done in his presence, but to cause a bill to be paid out of the Treasury for presents made to himself and others, having endorsed on it such words as "for expenses incurred during the visit of the President," which took place after he had gone.

Mr. Peale further contends that "no charge was ever made or contemplated for the *medals* struck on that occasion. The cases and gilding which were done outside of the Mint, were alone charged for." Admitting even that such was the fact, (although the assertion of Mr. Peale, the hearsay declaration of Mr. Dubois, and the cancelled entry on the "margin or butt of a warrant in the warrant book," made by Randall Hutchinson, who shortly afterwards embezzled more than \$20,000 and fled, would not constitute proof,) still it was not more lawful or right to have charged for the gilding of the medals presented, or the cases enclosing them, than for the medals themselves.

Even the letter of Mr. Dubois, (No. 81 Appendix,) to which Mr. Peale refers as one which "explains the whole transaction," and

which will, therefore, show "the extent to which it was an unofficer-like and demoralizing transaction," contains a statement that he, Dubois, "concurred" with the clerk Hutchinson, who "objected to it as an impropriety, that a bill had been presented and paid upon a warrant made out by himself." And, if the facts of "this occurrence" may have been "nearly forgotten" by Mr. Dubois, I well remember the language he employed at the time, when he came to me for a contribution; and which was: "We formerly paid for the Assay Commissioners' dinner out of our own pockets, but since the Government has assumed that as a public expense, we seem to have become of easier virtue." Whether the implied insinuation, that the practice of feasting away public money, tends to render virtue facile in the Mint, is a question which may be left for the present with the officers thereof.

Of the business of making and selling medals, carried on in the Mint by Mr. Peale, the principal facts are: that it has never been authorized by law; that it has been a traffic for his private gain; that the bullion of the Mint was unlawfully used by him as capital for his trade, before I, while an officer of the Mint, refused to be accessory to such an abuse of trust, (See Nos. 1 to 5 App.); that the use of the machinery and workmen of the Mint has been at the expense of the United States; that Mr. Peale has, therefore, appropriated to himself the profits of the labor of the workmen of the Mint, to which he was not legally entitled; that he has not distributed said profits among those who performed the work, as justice required; that such proceedings, especially in such an institution, are demoralizing in their tendency; and that this medal trade is a monopoly in unfair competition with private industry and talent.

In justification, Mr. Peale first seeks to create the erroneous impression that it is not himself, but his predecessor, the late Adam Eckfeldt, who is to be held accountable for whatever has been wrong in this medal trade. But the same workmen, who have often complained to me of Mr. Peale's neglect to compensate them justly for the work done by them for his pecuniary gain, have repeatedly referred, in contrast, to the opposite course pursued by Mr. Eckfeldt, whom they always spoke of with affection and esteem. And if Mr. Peale means to assert, or even to insinuate, that he only followed an established custom, which originated with Mr. Eckfeldt, he is, I believe, therein guilty of slandering an upright man. Let only the following questions be truly answered: did Mr. Eckfeldt ever trade upon the bullion of the Mint, as Mr. Peale has done? And did that gentleman, or did he not, compensate the workmen?

Next, it is argued by Mr. Peale that "the striking of medals is very appropriate to the constitution and organization of the Mint." This I deny, for it is admitted by the Director of the Mint, in his letter to the Secretary of the Treasury of November 23d, 1850, (No. 37 Appendix,) that the "engraving and striking of medals, national or private, has no place in our code of Mint laws, and, of course, forms no part of the functions of the mint;" and the clause in the Constitution of the United States, which gives to the Congress the right to "coin money," from which alone the Mint derives its existence, cer-

tainly does not authorize even that body to permit the coiner of the Mint to use it as a factory, in which medals are made "for different States, societies and individuals," at the expense of the United States, but for his private emolument, and in competition with private industry.

As for medals to be presented to officers of the army and navy, or to the Indian tribes, Congress *might* authorize them to be made in the Mint; but this should be done, *if at all*, with proper restrictions. And that they can be better made by private artists than they have been by Mr. Peale, is evident from the striking contrast presented by the national medals engraved by Mr. Wright, of New-York, for the battles of Buena Vista, and of the line to the city of Mexico, in comparison with the disreputable work upon the medals for the battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Monterey, executed in the Mint with dies roughly turned out in part with a lathe, and in part struck from the old die of the medal of General Scott for the battle of Chippewa, for which job and glaring plagiarism Mr. Peale is believed to have realized the clear profit of about \$1,500 out of the \$2,000 reported to have been paid to him by the War Department, the value of the gold used having been about \$300, and their being also some minor expenses incurred for modelling, casting a pattern, engraving, morocco cases, &c.

But Mr. Peale contends that the "consent of the Department was in many cases asked and never refused;" and he concludes that "it is manifest, therefore, that what appears to that gentleman (myself), so gross an impropriety makes no such impression on others." What, if the confidence of the Secretary of the Treasury has been often abused, is that anything else than an aggravation of the offence? It does not appear that the details of this medal trade were ever made known sufficiently to any Secretary of the Treasury (with the exception of Mr. Corwin) to enable him to form an independent opinion concerning its propriety or impropriety. And that the late Secretary gave his sanction to such a traffic, is a precedent to be avoided rather than followed by his successors. Precedents soon lead to custom; custom established acquires the force of law; and thus abuses spring up in the public service and become so deeply rooted, that they with much difficulty can scarcely be weeded out.

Even for Mr. Corwin, it may be said, that he was perhaps deceived by representations made to him in official communications from the Mint. For instance, in the letter of Nov. 23d, 1850, (No. 37 App.) the director said: "I think it proper, however, to state, in view of the charges alleged of a personal gain to the chief coiner from his official position, that I have *his assurance*, in a written memorandum, which he has presented to me on this subject, that the use of the machinery is all the advantage accruing to him, and does not in any way interfere with the usual mint operations." Had not this coiner used the workmen, and even the bullion itself? How, then, could he truthfully have given such an assurance to the director?

But it is directly asserted by Mr. Peale (No. 30 App.) that "the trifling advantage which the chief coiner derives from the manufacture of medals is not at the expense of the United States, as charged. The only advantage he derives from his position is in the use of the old

coining machine now dispensed with for mint operations. The materials and the compensation of workmen are at the chief coiner's charge, and the regular labors of the Mint are never interrupted." Is the "old coining machine" then all that is used for making the medals? How are the ingots cast and rolled into strips? How are the planchets cut from the strips and annealed? And at whose expense has the machinery been worked and kept in order? It is positively denied by workmen of the Mint, who aided in making the medals of Mr. Peale, that he has compensated them (No. 25 Appendix). This is, therefore, a question of veracity between him and them, in which the weight of probability seems to preponderate on the side of superior numbers.

As for the "use of the old coining machine now dispensed with for mint operations," the fact is, I believe, that said press is still often required and employed for the manufacture of the coining dies; and, therefore, it should not have been consigned by Mr. Corwin, at the instance of the late director, to the use of Mr. Peale for striking his medals, but have been placed under the exclusive control of the engraver of the Mint, whose duty it has been made by law, (Sect. 2, Act of Cong., App., Jan. 18, 1837) to "prepare and engrave, with the legal devices and inscriptions, all the dies used in the coinage of the Mint and its branches."

In relation to the trouble, which Mr. Peale informs us, that he took to procure a "very complete" series of "our national, state and private dies," the merit of such exertions depends chiefly upon the motive which incited them. If this was patriotic, then were they praiseworthy. If, however, it rather contemplated an expansion of the medal trade, as the letter of President Van Buren, of January 22d, 1841, communicating to Congress the report of the director of the Mint, might lead us to infer, then much less of credit is to be ascribed to them. And as for the hope "that some day a Medallie Establishment may be attached to this Mint, by authority of law," should this ever be realized, it is most probable that the trade would cease to be so profitable.

The reader may judge from the evidence contained in the official communications of the engraver of the Mint, Mr. Longacre, to the director and to the Secretary of the Treasury, (Nos. 12, 13, App.) whether or not my charge against Mr. Peale of "malicious intermeddling with the duties of that officer, and false misrepresentations of his conduct," is or is not substantiated. So far as that charge concerns myself, the party accusing, I would be content to submit the case without remark. But in the reply of Mr. Peale (No. 30, App.) there is new matter which ought not to be published without some exposition or refutation. And of which a portion, while it fastens upon him that which my charge imputed, may serve also to illustrate how by words of his own a guilty man inadvertently furnishes the most convincing proof against himself.

For instance, he says: "I believed *then*, that I knew Mr. Longacre's real object, and now am convinced of it. It was to exhibit the

pieces asked for as triumphant evidences of his success." And he adds: "As the piece asked for was in my legal custody alone, I did not choose to permit Mr. Longacre to use it for the purpose of taking a snap judgment." Such confessions as these render manifest that which alone constitutes guilt in any action, the existence of improper motive.

He who did not choose to permit another to have even the power to take a "snap judgment," did not himself hesitate to resort secretly to such a proceeding. Misrepresentations were privately made to the Secretary of the Treasury; the engraver was informed that he was to be removed from office and was urgently advised to send in his resignation; but he rejected such advice, gave correct information to the Secretary of the Treasury, and the intrigue was defeated.

Yet Mr. Peale positively asserts that the "insinuation of Mr. Longacre, that he was the source for the hostility to which he attributes those acts is entirely without foundation." To whom then are they to be ascribed? To Dr. Patterson? There is no third person, to whom they can possibly be imputed. Either, therefore, Mr. Peale must creep out from under the cover of the Director's official action, or else Dr. Patterson must be held to have been guilty of whatever may have been wrong in this affair. But we cannot be at a loss to decide between the two, for it was Mr. Peale who, *according to his own confession*, reported in writing to the Director, because he "had no doubt that continued delay would create public disappointment;" who nevertheless caused delay from the 12th to the 26th January; and whose mind was busy about "snap judgments," rather than public duties. And Mr. Longacre himself, says: "as my representations made to the Director at the time failed to obtain for me any apology, explanation or redress; and as the characteristic urbanity of the Director in my intercourse with him at other points, precluded to my mind the idea that any unfriendliness towards me could originate with him, I was necessarily compelled to look to some other source for the hostility developed by the matters transpiring immediately thereafter." A candid and intelligent mind cannot hesitate to separate the malice of the subordinate, and the unjust official action of the Director, from the mistake of the deluded and amiable gentleman; nor fail to perceive that the pretended friendship, carried on for many years through deception, ended, as such relations usually do, in treachery.

To enable the reader to understand this whole affair, he should be informed, that, to carry on the medal trade more independently, it has been with Mr. Peale for a long time a cherished scheme to get rid of the office of engraver, and gather into his own hands all the power belonging thereto; that he has, therefore, been in the habit of alleging that said office "has become a sinecure;" and that, *in derogation of law*, he has usurped the control of much of the apparatus and many of the operations pertaining to the engraver. For instance, the copying or medallion lathe, the screw press, the superintendence of the workman who attends to the forging, turning, striking and tempering the dies, hubs, &c. And when such means had failed, he seems to have resolved to cut the knot, and procure the removal of the incumbent, by assailing his professional skill with clandestine misrepresentations. If there were no other reasons why that medal trade should be stopped,

this alone should be sufficient, that it conflicts with the legal rights and authority of an officer of the mint, and has more than once disturbed the harmony of the public service in that institution.

Moreover, the attempt of Mr. Peale to justify those facts which he does not deny concerning his participation in this matter, is based upon a bold assumption of authority. He asserts it to be "a proposition which cannot be disputed," that he is "the only official and competent judge" of the fitness of dies for coining. And he says, that he has therefore "exercised an undoubted right of judgment on the work of Mr. Longacre." Admitting that a coiner has such a right, why then might not each of the coiners of the several branch mints also claim to be "the only official and competent judge?" But we have statute law in relation to this subject; the Act of Congress for the organization of the Mint, approved January 18, 1837, defines the relative authority and duties of the several officers. It declares, that "the engraver shall prepare all the dies," that "the coiner shall execute all the operations necessary to form coins;" it places these two officers on an equality of rank and salary, and renders them independent of each other; but it enacts that "the director shall have the control and management of the mint, the superintendence of the officers and persons employed therein, and the general regulation and supervision of the business of the several branches." If, therefore, the engraver should not prepare the dies properly, the Director is the only officer who has "an undoubted right of judgment in the matter." The coiner may be permitted respectfully to make suggestions, to express opinions or wishes, or to submit questions fairly and truthfully to the Director for his consideration. But, when one subordinate officer arrogates to himself the right of judgment upon the work of another, he oversteps the limits of his own legal authority and usurps that of the Director; and, at the same time, he takes leave of that official courtesy, which cannot be dispensed with while there are persons in the public service who can forget to behave with the politeness and modesty of gentlemen.

With reference to the indignity to the late Mr. J. B. Reynolds, committed by Mr. Peale, I have to say, that he has misrepresented the facts in his attempted defence. And as for his remark, "it was by Mr. McCulloh, therefore, that Mr. Reynolds was placed in a subordinate position; while he occupied that position, high as was my regard for him and my admiration for his talents, my official self-respect required of me the conduct which I preserved." This is only an insult to all humble though estimable workmen. It is an insinuation or assertion, that there is in honest labor degradation, which neither personal worth nor commanding talents can alleviate. And is not "official self-respect," as he calls it, only that arrogance, which by persons in inferior authority, is sometimes substituted for civility? Modesty, intelligence and virtue dignify any occupation; but without these, the higher the official station obtained, the deeper the dishonor reflected on the incumbent.

Any remarks concerning my having asked for an assistant, when an

officer of the Mint, while my successor, Prof. Booth, has contented himself with a "substitute," may be deferred to a future and more appropriate occasion.

And whether Mr. Peale was or was not instrumental to the withdrawal of Mr. Reynolds from the Mint, is a question upon which I will now merely remark: that both Mr. Reynolds and myself at the time believed, as I do still believe, that he had much to do with it; and that we founded our belief, not so much upon the statement made by Prof. Booth to that effect, (see No. 18, Appendix,) as upon a greater inherent probability. The well-known character of Mr. Peale, his course of "official self-respect," his "mysterious influence," his participation in all that related to the general management of the Mint, his cherished feelings for the refusal to supply bullion for his medal trade, intent on indirect, because without opportunity for direct, gratification; all these considerations, especially when combined with the non-fulfilment of an honorable obligation, and an informal offer of a clerkship to keep the books of Mr. Peale, constituted an amount of circumstantial evidence, which was not rendered more convincing by the declaration of Prof. Booth; of which, if Mr. Peale should contend that it is not entitled to credit, I am willing to admit that it possesses only that which is reflected upon it by other evidence.

It is painful to be obliged to make such expositions; and I, therefore, hope that I may never again have occasion to refer to the official conduct of the coiner of the Mint. If others have been silent, they may be entitled to credit for patience and forbearance. For my own part, I am not unwilling to be considered neither submissive to wrong, nor regardless of official misconduct. And whenever unfaithful confederated officers shall presume to violate private rights and abuse public trusts, it is to be hoped that there may not be wanting citizens ready to complain in a different tone from that of humble supplication.

RICHARD S. McCULLOH.

Princeton, July 11th, 1853.

APPENDIX.

FIRST SERIES OF EXHIBITS.

No.

1. August 17, 1849.—To F. Peale, Esq., declining to furnish gold or silver for the manufacture of medals.
2. August 23, 1849.—To the Director of the Mint, giving the reasons for so declining.
3. August 24, 1849.—Reply of the Director.
4. August 25, 1849.—To the Director, in reply, and in justification of the refusal to aid an officer of the Mint in transactions of profit.
5. January 4, 1851.—To the Secretary of the Treasury, in relation to the above official correspondence and the medal trade in the Mint.
6. August 1, 1851.—To the President asking for a just trial of process for refining, and an investigation of charges preferred.
7. August 12, 1851.—Investigation ordered by the President, &c.
8. August 13, 1851.—To the Director of the Mint, offering information, &c.
9. August 15, 1851.—Reply of the Director.
10. August 22, 1851.—The Director of the Mint requests specifications of the facts referred to in several of the charges against the Coiner of the Mint, F. Peale, Esq., and the evidence thereof.
11. September 2, 1851.—The Engraver of the Mint states what transpired in interviews with the Director of the Mint and Secretary of the Treasury, connected with the preparation of the dies for double eagles, and furnishes copies of official letters to those officers.
12. January 30, 1850.—Letter from the Engraver to the Director of the Mint.
13. February 18, 1850.—From the Engraver of the Mint to the Secretary of the Treasury.
14. September 4, 1851.—To the Director of the Mint, asking for cost of machinery, copies of papers, &c.
15. September 24, 1851.—Specifications to charges against F. Peale, Esq., Coiner of the Mint.
16. September 25, 1851.—To the Director of the Mint, transmitting specifications, and promising, if he intends only an administrative inquiry, the names of witnesses, with particulars about which they may be interrogated, or to notify them to attend at an appointed time for examination in more formal proceedings.
17. September 26, 1851.—The Director of the Mint states why information is not given; that his investigation will be only an administrative inquiry; and asks for names of parties to be examined privately.
18. October 21, 1851.—Furnishing to the Director of the Mint names of persons and matters for inquiry.
19. January 16, 1850.—F. Peale submits to the Director of the Mint an estimate for new machinery, &c.

20. February 26, 1850.—The Director of the Mint sends the said estimate to the Secretary of the Treasury, and desires appropriation.
21. Statement of Joseph Canby, machinist, employed in the Mint; work done for F. Peale, Esq.
22. Statement of P. Rowan, workman, of the Mint, services rendered to F. Peale, plastering and shaking carpets.
23. Statement of Robert Wallace, workman, of the Mint; carpenter's work, &c., for F. Peale, Esq.
24. December, 1850.—Letter of William M. Snider, formerly machinist in the Mint, to the Secretary of the Treasury, about abuses in the Mint, &c.
25. Certificate of workmen of the Mint.

SECOND SERIES OF EXHIBITS.

26. January 5, 1853.—To the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, asking for copy of any report on the charges against F. Peale, Esq.
27. July 13, 1852.—Report of the Director of the Mint on said charges, exculpating Mr. Peale.
28. January 24, 1853.—To the Secretary of the Treasury, asking for the evidence and for copies of all papers or documents referred to in the aforesaid report of the Director of the Mint.
29. January 29, 1853.—The director of the Mint declines to furnish to the Secretary of the Treasury the evidence; transmits the following papers, and seeks to justify his official action.
30. April 15, 1852.—Reply of Mr. Peale to the charges preferred against him.
31. November 13, 1851.—Statement of W. E. Dubois, assistant assayer of the Mint, concerning the present made to President Polk, for which payment was made out of the contingent fund of the Mint.
32. Statement of the Engraver of the Mint, J. B. Longacre, Esq., in relation to interferences by Mr. Peale with his official duties, &c.
33. October 25, 1851.—Samuel V. Merrick, Esq., President of the Franklin Institute, to the director of the Mint, requesting that medals may be made in the Mint for said Institute.
34. October 27, 1851.—The Director of the Mint submits said application to the Secretary of the Treasury.
35. October 30, 1851.—The Secretary of the Treasury authorizes the manufacture of medals by F. Peale, Esq., coiner of the Mint, for said Franklin Institute.
36. November 18, 1850.—The Secretary of the Treasury inquires of the Director of the Mint about the facts alluded to in an article published in the Evening Express, New York, Nov. 14, 1850.
37. November 23, 1850.—Reply of the Director of the Mint, seeking to justify the medal trade carried on in the Mint.

APPENDIX.

FIRST SERIES OF EXHIBITS.

No. 1.

U. S. MINT, August 17th, 1849.

DEAR SIR:—Under present circumstances, I must decline to furnish you with gold or silver, for the manufacture of medals.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

To F. PEALE, Esq.

R. S. McCULLOH.

No. 2.

U. S. MINT, August 23, 1849.

MY DEAR SIR:—A few days ago, I received, through a messenger from Mr. Peale, the chief coiner, an application for fine gold, to be used for making a medal, ordered by Congress to be presented to General Scott. In a written reply, I respectfully declined, under present circumstances, to furnish him with gold or silver, for the manufacture of medals. That you may know my reasons for doing so; and that, if I entertain erroneous views, they may be corrected, it is due both to you and myself, that I should state them unreservedly.

In the first place, I should say that my action was entirely independent of personal considerations, and that I should cheerfully have extended to Mr. Peale the accommodation he sought, if I could have done so consistently with my views of official propriety.

I have been informed, through sources entitled to credit, that the business of making medals in the Mint, as at present conducted, is regarded in the community as of very doubtful propriety, if not illegal.

Within the Mint, the workmen, with few exceptions, believe it wrong and unauthorized by law, that they should be required to labor for the pecuniary benefit of an officer; and they look with suspicion upon all such transactions of profit. I have myself cautiously abstained from everything of the sort, and the same course has been uniformly pursued by the assayers; any extra work done, either for the Government, or for individuals, having been always performed gratuitously.

If the manufacture of medals in the Mint, for the private profit of the chief coiner, has been authorized by law, I am ignorant of the fact. If it be so, I have no objection whatever to furnish him with metal suitable for the purpose, with your sanction, and upon the terms of simultaneous interchange of equal values; if not, it seems to me improper that it should be done.

By the act of Congress of January 18th, 1837, for the organization of the Mint, the salaries of the officers are fixed; but no other emoluments are allowed; nor is the manufacture of medals authorized or mentioned in it.

In his letter of January 22d, 1841, communicating the report of the Director of the Mint, in relation to the operations of the year 1840, President Van Buren submitted to Congress the inquiry, whether authority shall be given to the Mint to strike off copies of the national medals in bronze, or other metal, for persons making application for them, and at a cost not to exceed the actual expense of striking them off. This inquiry was referred to a committee, but I know not what further action was taken upon it. It evidently implies, that, at that time, the Mint possessed no authority to strike medals; and it carefully excludes profit, as a condition of the proposed authority.

Also, by an act of Congress of August 23, 1842, it is enacted that "no officer in any branch of the public service, or any other person whose salary, pay or emoluments, is or are fixed by law or regulations, shall receive any additional pay, extra allowance or compensation, in any form whatever, for the disbursement of public money, or any other service or duty whatsoever, unless the same shall be authorized by law, and the appropriation therefor explicitly set forth, that it is for such additional pay, extra allowance, or compensation.

But if legal, I doubt whether the manufacture of medals in the Mint is expedient or right, especially when they are made for such corporations as the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania, the Worcester County Mechanics' Association of Massachusetts, &c., &c.; private artists look with displeasure and jealousy upon competition by the workshops of the Government, established for other purposes; and workmen of the Mint cannot but regard with distrust the employment of those workshops and their own time and labor, for which they are paid by the Government, to carry on a private business of considerable extent and profit.

I do not design, in this communication, to prefer charges of official misconduct against the chief coiner, but merely to give you an exposition of my reasons for declining to comply with a request, which I could not grant without violation of my sense of official rectitude. I had repeatedly furnished both gold and silver to Mr. Peale, for the manufacture of medals; but I did so, at first, in confidence of the propriety of an established custom, and in ignorance of the fact that the medals were made by him as a source of profit; subsequently, and for a long time, without having fully examined and carefully considered the subject; without knowing the views entertained of it by others, within the Mint or beyond its walls; and without forming a definite opinion and conclusion. And it is with reluctance that I have been at length compelled to decline to extend to the coiner facilities which he has heretofore received.

If I err, I will cheerfully, I repeat, be convinced of error. But, if otherwise, then as an officer responsible for the bullion and public monies, when confided to the workmen in the melting and refining department of the Mint, I respectfully submit, for your consideration and judgment, whether anything of even questionable authority or propriety should be done in the Mint, lest its tendency be demoralizing, or calculated to impair that regard for integrity among the workmen, which is our only security.

With respect and esteem,

Your obedient servant,

To DR. R. M. PATTERSON,
Director of the Mint.

R. S. McCULLOH,
Melter and Refiner.

No. 3.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, }
Director's Office, August 24, 1849. }

MY DEAR SIR:—I have read with care your communication of the 23d inst.; but I will now confine my answer to the circumstances which gave rise to it.

I have, therefore, only to say, that as you are responsible for the bullion placed in your keeping, you have a perfect right to decline an interchange of any part of it, even for other bullion of equal value, and even if required for purposes of the Government, if such be your will in the case.

Yours, with sincere friendship,

RICHARD S. McCULLOH, Esq.

R. M. PATTERSON.

No. 4.

MELTER AND REFINER'S OFFICE, }
August 25th, 1849. }

MY DEAR SIR:—Your reply of yesterday, professedly “confined to the circumstances which gave rise to” my communication of the 23d instant, simply asserts my “perfect right to decline an interchange” of bullion for other bullion of equal value, “*even if required for purposes of the Government, if such be my will in the case.*”

This language may imply, that my action in the particular case referred to, may have been attended, either with unwillingness to facilitate work for the Government, or the unnecessary exercise of a right which might properly have been waived. Such was not, I believe, the signification you designed it to convey; but, as it will admit of it, by inference, I feel called upon to make the following remarks, that I may be fully understood.

As a public officer, I have, of my own free choice, always sought to facilitate the public work, not only by the discharge of official duties, but also by the devotion, *without compensation therefor*, of a large portion of my time, since I have been connected with the Mint, to the prosecution of a laborious and extended series of chemical researches for the Treasury Department; for which professional work, begun before I was appointed melter and refiner of the Mint, and not yet finished, I received, before I entered upon the duties of that office, a compensation equivalent to my present salary. To this circumstance I reluctantly refer, as evidence that I am not unwilling to serve the Government.

To private citizens, I have always been pleased to impart information concerning the precious metals, either orally or in writing; and to extend, by interchange of bullion of equal value, with your sanction, any proper and legal accommodation. Not long since, in reply to an application made to yourself, as you may remember, I cheerfully promised to furnish to a private individual refined California gold, for the manufacture of a medal to be presented to the late Col. Duncan, in exchange for bullion of equal value. He did not subsequently come or send for it; but if he had done so, I should have cheerfully furnished the promised metal. If in such transactions, exempt from profit or credit, there be anything improper, I do not perceive it; and I am, therefore, willing thus to oblige any citizen.

Had I have had any reason to believe, that Mr. Peale, in superintending the manufacture, by workmen of the Mint, of the medal for Gen. Scott, was contrary to custom, not incidentally conducting an operation, for which he would receive a large compensation, I should not have declined to furnish suitable metal.

That I was not in error, in believing that the metal he sought was not to be used *solely for purposes of the Government*, is proved by the fact, that from the gold which he obtained from the Treasurer, after I declined to furnish it, has been struck, not only the medal for General Scott, but also one for an Association in Massachusetts.

I have objected only, to aid an officer of the Mint, *directly or indirectly*, in any transaction of profit based upon labor performed by the workmen and ma-

chinery of the Mint and to the performance by any officer of such transactions. This objection I have felt it my duty to make to yourself, as Director of the Mint, invested by law with its "control and management, and with the superintendence of the officers and persons employed therein."

With the highest esteem and friendship,

Very truly yours,

DR. R. M. PATTERSON, Director.

R. S. McCULLOH.

No. 5.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4th, 1853.

MY DEAR SIR:—As you lately requested me to furnish you a copy of the correspondence between the Director of the Mint and myself, in relation to the manufacture of medals in the mint, and as one has been placed at your disposition, I deem it proper likewise to submit the following statement:

Soon after I entered upon the duties of the office of melter and refiner of the Mint, in 1848, I was requested by the coiner, Mr. Peale, to furnish him, in conformity with usage, with some ingots of fine silver to make medals for the Indian tribes, which request I complied with. And as he promptly returned me an equivalent amount of silver, I did not entertain any doubt that I had therein performed a regular and proper official act.

During the ensuing year several similar transactions occurred between the coiner and myself; his applications being complied with by me, in confidence of their propriety.

Doubts were subsequently awakened in my mind by several occurrences, to wit:

1st. The foreman of the silver melting room, being requested by Mr. Peale to get the moulds ready for casting ingots for a lot of medals to be made for the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania, refused to do so. Complaint was consequently made by Mr. Peale to me, as the officer in charge of the melting operations. When simply interrogated by me, the foreman replied: that the manufacture of medals formed no part of the proper work of the Mint; that Mr. Peale carried it on as a business for his own profit, and paid nothing to those who had to perform the work for him; and that he did not wish to do anything either for Mr. Peale or the Franklin Institute. He was apparently excited, and ascribing his action rather to feeling than anything else, I replied: that he was probably mistaken in believing that Mr. Peale would realize any profit from medals made for a public institution designed to promote the arts and sciences; that the work was doubtless gratuitous, and prompted, on the part of Mr. Peale, only by a commendable public spirit; and that he would, therefore, oblige me by making the ingots. His reply was, as recollected by me: "I will gladly do, sir, anything you may request, but in making medal ingots I wish it to be understood that I consider it no part of my duty. And when you, sir, have been long enough in the Mint to know about this medal business, you will think differently of it from what you do now."

2d. Upon the occasion of the visit of President Polk to the Mint, the coiner, Mr. Peale, presented to him a copper medal, struck for the purpose. A few days afterwards, a bill for that medal, made out in a sum much greater than it could possibly have cost, and not in the name of Mr. Peale, but in that of a workman who was not entitled to the money, was presented, by that workman, and paid out of the contingent fund of the Mint by one of the clerks. This circumstance being made known by that clerk to the Treasurer and other officers, and being disapproved of by them, Mr. Peale, instead of causing the money to be restored to the United States, as should have been done,

suffered it to be refunded chiefly by his colleagues, himself becoming a contributor.

3d. A lot of medals, for a corporation in Massachusetts, was made by the coiner, out of silver advanced by me, according to usage; but, instead of promptly returning to me the equivalent quantity of silver, he delayed to do so for several weeks.

This delay drew my attention to the propriety of these transactions, and led me to examine the laws of the United States, for the purpose of ascertaining whether I could legally advance bullion to any officer of the Mint. As I did not find authority for so doing, I submitted to the Director the question, whether or not I had any right to deliver medal ingots to the chief coiner, as had been customary both before and after I entered upon the duties of my office. He decided that I had none. I then offered to procure from the War Department, for the accommodation of the coiner in preparing medals for the Government, such advances as I felt no longer at liberty to make to him out of the bullion in my charge. This offer he declined, and my action excited some feeling upon his part.

Subsequently, I agreed to let the coiner have medal ingots, with the knowledge and sanction of the Director, upon his delivering to me, simultaneously, bullion of equal value, as I had not then formed the opinion that the manufacture of medals, as pursued within the Mint, was entirely wrong; for I had foreborne to ask questions, and, therefore, knew but little of its details, as the subject was one about which silence was generally observed by the officers and workmen of the Mint. Accordingly, I afterwards did, from time to time, deliver ingots for the manufacture of the medals to Mr. Peale, receiving from him simultaneously bullion of equal value.

But upon the last occasion of his obtaining metal from me, Mr. Peale requested me to let him use refined gold, with which I was charged, to prepare the medal ordered by Congress to be presented to Gen. Taylor for the battle of Buena Vista; which I consented to do, with the express understanding, that the gold, so to be transformed into a medal, should remain in the custody of Mr. Peale, as an officer of the Mint, until he should deliver to me bullion of equal value to that of the said gold. But this understanding he violated, by parting with the medal, without having first delivered to me the value of the gold contained therein; and as soon as this fact became known to me, I was obliged to require of him to restore to me, immediately, bullion of the aforesaid value. In reply, he objected that it would put him to inconvenience; which compelled me to make my demand peremptory, a proceeding unavoidably painful to myself, as it was of necessity inherently offensive to him. The bullion thus demanded was on the same day restored to me.

The aforesaid unpleasant occurrences led me gravely to consider all I knew about the manufacture of medals at the Mint, and carefully to re-examine the laws for the establishment and regulation of that institution. And, I thereby, became convinced that I ought not to aid any officer in conducting transactions of profit, based upon work performed by the machinery and workmen of the Mint, unless expressly authorized by law. Hence, when Mr. Peale applied to me for gold to be used for the medal ordered by Congress to be presented to Gen. Scott, in honor of his glorious victories during the Mexican war, I was constrained, by my sense of duty, respectfully to decline to furnish it, for reasons embodied in my correspondence with the Director of the Mint, copy whereof has been furnished to you.

The last letter of that correspondence I presented to the Director, in person, and when he had read it, and had remarked upon the subject of medals made by the coiner, without controverting any of the facts, views or reasons which I had submitted, I assured him, that I had been actuated only by a sense of

duty, and that I bore towards the coiner no unkind feeling ; which the latter had, I was told, imputed to me, as the reason for my having refused to furnish bullion to him.

Shortly afterwards, I took occasion to request the Director to show to the coiner, if he had not so done, the aforesaid correspondence, for the assigned reason, that I did not wish to discuss the propriety of the conduct of another without his knowledge. And, actuated by my desire and official obligation to serve the public interests, I then expressed to the Director of the Mint the opinion, entertained by me, of the want of correct judgment on the part of the coiner ; justifying that opinion, by referring to the above mentioned affair of the medal presented to Mr. Polk, paid for out of, and refunded to, the contingent fund of the Mint ; and by remarking, thereupon, according to my recollection, that it had forced me to believe Mr. Peale, either not to have a proper sense of right and wrong in such matters, or not to be always governed by it, and that of these alternative conclusions, I preferred the former, as the most just, because the most charitable. To which the Director replied, as I remember, by remarking, that "such things are customary," and asking me whether I did not "suppose the dinner given to Mr. Polk at the Navy Yard to have been paid for out of the public purse?" I answered, "It ought not to have been, if it was."

The medal business has been carried on, with the full knowledge, sanction and concurrence of the Director of the Mint ; a fact, which I cannot reconcile with the intelligence of that officer, upon the assumption, which I have felt bound to make, that he is a disinterested party ; nor with his sense of justice, as I believe, that the profits thereof are retained almost wholly by the coiner, whilst the work is performed by other persons and the machinery of the Mint, and that the artists of the country consider said business as an unjust monopoly, conducted by a machinist in unprofessional and improper competition with their industry, resources and talents, who derives it only from official station.

In extenuation, it may be stated, that the business of making medals in the Mint originated many years since, in applications by the government to the coiner of the Mint to prepare those needed by it, to be presented to the Indian tribes, or awarded by Congress to officers of our Army and Navy. A twig engrafted may be healthy at first, but it may grow to be a branch full of morbid excrescences, and poisonous to the whole tree. And certainly, the Government never could have designed that the Mint should become a factory, for the fabrication and sale of premiums to be awarded at agricultural fairs and industrial exhibitions.

In conclusion, I should say, that you are, of course, at liberty to make any use, private or public, of this communication, and of the correspondence to which it refers, that in your judgment the public interests may require.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD S. McCULLOH,
Late Melter and Refiner of the Mint.

HON. THOMAS CORWIN,
Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 6.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, MILLARD FILLMORE,
President of the United States.

SIR—The large quantities of gold received from California, to be refined and coined in the Mint of the United States, having rendered it very desirable that

a new process of refining gold, superior to the one now employed, should be substituted to facilitate the operations of the Mint, and dispense with the necessity of advancing, to the use of depositors of bullion, so large a sum as *five or six millions* of dollars from the Treasury of the United States, whilst the government is in debt and incurring interest thereupon; and such a new process having been by me discovered, patented and offered, through the Congress, to the use of the United States :

I was induced, by statements made to me by the melter and refiner of the Mint, James C. Booth, that he had likewise discovered a new and improved method of refining gold, to assign to him a moiety of my aforesaid invention in exchange for a moiety of his own. And we then offered to the government the right to use both of said inventions, upon the terms originally proposed for my own alone. In consequence whereof, Congress saw fit to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to enable the President to purchase, for the Mint and its branches, the right to use the aforesaid new methods of refining, if he should deem it expedient to do so.

Various experiments, designed to test the merits of the process of Mr. Booth, were then tried, *by himself*, in the Mint at Philadelphia. The results of which, withheld for a long time from my knowledge by him, though interrogated by me as a party of interest with reference thereto, were finally admitted by him, and reported by the late Director of the Mint, to be such as to have demonstrated the aforesaid invention of said Booth to be destitute of efficiency and of no value.

While said Booth was thus unsuccessfully trying his own invention, he also experimented in the Mint with ill-devised modifications of my process, but declined to try the process itself in the manner requested by me and specified in my patent; and he either destroyed, or suffered to be destroyed, the refining furnace then in the Mint, and to which I had called his attention as suitable and requisite for a proper trial.

The unfavorable results which he consequently obtained, were calculated only to mislead; and they were inconsistent with those which he had professed to have found, and volunteered to certify, previously to his having acquired an interest in my invention or sought to invent another.

Justly dissatisfied with such proceedings, I asked the melter and refiner of the Mint at New Orleans to try my invention, which he accordingly did and with success. And I also requested the Secretary of the Treasury to *instruct* the Director of the Mint to cause my own process, as well as that of Mr. Booth, to be tried *in my presence*; which request he was pleased justly to comply with; but his orders were disregarded, the trial of each process *in my presence* being avoided and treated as unnecessary.

Experiments upon my process were, contrary to my known wishes, tried in my absence; the result of which, whilst they dismissed the only objection, previously and for months urged against it, to wit, that it unavoidably produced gold too brittle for coinage, are strangely reported, at one time, to have displayed *a gain* of several ounces in the gold operated upon—in other words, *a creation*, in fact, *an impossibility*; and, at another time, to have shown a loss of gold, or *a destruction*, alike an *impossibility*. Which results, *in both cases*, are justly ascribable to culpable carelessness, unskilfulness or injustice.

And in the last trial of my invention, though the zinc used as alloy was represented to have been impure, and the results were, therefore, deemed imperfect; yet, were they held to be conclusive.

In justification of the refusal to cause my process to be tried in my presence, it was alleged by the late Director that the interest, integrity and energy of Mr. Booth should be regarded as giving the fullest assurance that the work would be properly done, if confined to him alone. But even if this had been

true, the instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury, which required such a trial of my process to be made, should have been complied with.

With respect to the *interest* of Mr. Booth, however, I should say that, as his own process proved upon trial by himself, with every facility, to be destitute of value, he ceased to have any equitable or just claim upon mine. And that, I consequently demanded and have obtained from him a release of the moiety of my invention, which had been conveyed to him, as aforesaid, in exchange for a moiety of his alleged invention.

Of his *energy*, I may remark, that, if I have been correctly informed, it and his working hours have been devoted rather to his private affairs beyond the precincts of the Mint, than to his public duties therein, since he was appointed to his present office. And the trials of my process, which he should have himself conducted, have been chiefly confided to workmen, who, however skilful they may be in the performance of familiar routine operations, yet need, when new improvements are to be introduced, to be guided by the officer, whose science, skill and forethought, it is by law contemplated, should preside over all the work entrusted to his charge, so as to insure suitable economy and correct results; and whose habitual absence is, therefore, inconsistent with the public interests and in derogation of law.

And as to his *integrity*, I should say that I felt well assured thereof when I consented to accept a moiety of his invention in exchange for a moiety of mine, relying as I did exclusively and implicitly upon his declaration, that, in said invention, he had overcome the several difficulties which, in attempting to refine gold, by the use of chlorine, I had encountered and had specified to him, and that he had ascertained it to be a quicker, cheaper, and in every respect a better method of refining than any other previously employed—better even than the zinc process which I had recently discovered, and he, having tried, had stated to be excellent and very valuable.

But I regret that I cannot reconcile therewith his failure to demonstrate his alleged invention to be such as he had professed it to be when he was bargaining for an interest in mine; nor his persisting, for several months, in the objection that my process would produce only brittle gold, in strange contrast with his own previous statement of its value and excellence, as aforesaid, and in avoidance of a trial in the manner requested by me, and specified in my patent; nor his subsequently promulgating a theory of its wastefulness, founded upon confessedly imperfect trials, showing gain as well as loss; nor his absenting himself from the discharge of his official duties, and permitting the operations entrusted by law to his skill and fidelity to be confided to workmen, who are not responsible for the same; nor his deference to another officer, neither possessing the qualifications of superior science, nor by his conduct in office entitled to confidence or respect.

I refer to the coiner of the Mint, Franklin Peale, to whose personal hostility to myself, the result of my having refused, while I was an officer of the Mint, to furnish him facilities for carrying on an unjustifiable traffic, and mysterious influence with the late Director, many of the obstacles to the introduction into the Mint of my improved method of refining are, I am satisfied, ascribable; whose lavish and unnecessary expenditure of public money, without adequate appropriation or useful effect; whose unofficer-like and demoralizing proceedings; whose malicious intermeddling with the duties of other officers of the Mint, and false representations of their conduct; and whose appropriation to his own benefit or gain of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled, prove him to be flagrantly unfit for the official position he now holds.

In conclusion, I would most respectfully request that the present Director of the Mint may be instructed to cause my aforesaid method of refining gold to be justly tried in my presence, and to make such investigation of the represeu-

tations and charges herein contained as in his judgment the public service or the interests of the parties concerned shall seem to require.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servt.,

RICH. S. McCULLOH.

Princeton, Aug. 1st, 1851.

No. 7.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

August 12th, 1851.

SIR,—Your memorial addressed to the President of the United States, dated the 1st inst., has been referred to this Department for a report. A copy has been transmitted to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia with a request that he will investigate the charges and representations contained in the memorial, and report the result to this Department; and also report as to the expedience, &c., of causing your method of refining gold to be tested at the Mint in your presence. You will, therefore, be pleased to be prepared to give the Director such information and make such explanations as he may require.

I am, very resp'y,

RICHARD S. McCULLOH,
Princeton, N. J.

WM. L. HODGE,
Act'g Sec. of Treasury.

No. 8.

PRINCETON, Aug. 13th, 1851.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a communication of the 12th inst., which I have just received from the Treasury Department, and to tender you any information, explanations, &c., which you may deem requisite or appropriate.

Very respectfully,

Dr. G. N. ECKERT,
Director of the Mint.

Your obt. servt.,
RICH. S. McCULLOH.

No. 9.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philad., 15 Aug., 1851.

SIR,—Your letter of the 13th has been received. In consequence of an unavoidable absence from the Mint, the communication from the Department to which you refer, has only this day been put in my hands. When I shall have had time to examine it, I will make such inquiries of you as the subject shall seem to render necessary.

Very resp'y, your ob't serv't,

Prof. R. S. McCULLOH,
Princeton, N. J.

G. N. ECKERT,
Director.

No. 10.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philad., 22 Aug., 1851.

SIR,—In your memorial to the President, dated Aug. 1st inst., you refer to the chief coiner of the Mint, Mr. Franklin Peale, as one "whose lavish and

unnecessary expenditure of public money without adequate appropriation or useful effect; whose unofficer-like and demoralizing proceedings; whose malicious intermeddling with the duties of other officers of the Mint, and false representations of their conduct; and whose appropriation to his own benefit or gain of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled,—prove him to be flagrantly unfit for the official position he now holds.”

The Department having directed me to make the necessary investigations into the charges made in your memorial against the officers of the Mint, and you yourself having, in your letter of the 13th inst., tendered such information, explanations, &c., as I may deem requisite or appropriate; I have now to request that the general charges against Mr. Peale, made in the above extract, may be specially detailed in writing, with a reference to the particular action or actions which you may consider infractions of official duty, and to the testimony on which you rely for their proof.

Very respectfully,

Your obed't serv't,

Prof. R. S. McCULLOH,
Princeton, N. J.

G. N. ECKERT,
Director.

No. 11.

PHILADELPHIA, September 2d, 1851.

DEAR SIR,—You request me to inform you of what transpired in my interviews with the Secretary of the Treasury, and with the director of the Mint, in addition to furnishing you with copies of my letters to those officers, in relation to difficulties connected with the preparation of the “*dies* for the coinage of double eagles.”

From the character of the letters referred to, they are, or ought to be, matters of record on the files of the offices respectively, to whose incumbents for the time being, they were addressed. But to obviate the difficulty of referring, I have no hesitation in supplying you from the original drafts of those letters in my hands.

With regard to interviews with those officers, on the same subject, I can undertake to do no more than give the stronger points which impressed me, on those occasions.

With the Secretary of the Treasury, I became satisfied that my position as an officer of the Government, as well as the discharge of my duties, had been most unfairly represented, and that by communications emanating from the Mint, without my knowledge. One fact will suffice to show the grounds of my conclusion. On exhibiting an impression from the *dies* I had just finished, he inquired with evident surprise, “what had become of the *dies* from which it was taken,” implying that he had been informed they were broken, when at the time I knew them to be in perfect order; as I then told him.

Without the interview which I was compelled to seek with the Secretary of the Treasury, and the consequent explanation of difficulties that had occurred, I have reason to believe, that the misrepresentation of *this* and other matters, pertaining to my official position, would have been seriously prejudicial to my character, not only as an officer of the Government, but as an artist.

With the director, I regret to say, that my interviews were less satisfactory. In the first place, I found it difficult to obtain an interview without the intrusion of another officer, which rendered a confidential communication impossible; and which was in fact the primary cause of my addressing him the letter to which reference has been made, and in which I was compelled to call his at-

tention to the conduct towards me of the chief coiner, in my official intercourse with that officer. To that letter a written reply was not given; the director noticed verbally some of the points on a visit to my office-room; but the complaint of official obstructions, in my intercourse with the chief coiner, was not adverted to. A few days after, however, I received another visit from the director, when he informed me that he had painful intelligence to communicate to me; which was, that I was to be removed from office; that the communication from the executive authority of the Government was imperative, and urgently advised me to send in my resignation.

It was the unexpected character of this interview, which impelled me to seek one with the Secretary of the Treasury, from a conviction that a purpose so unfriendly, on the part of that officer, could only have been formed, in the absence of correct information, as to my position, and the proper discharge of my official duties; and which information it then became a duty to myself to convey, in such a manner as would admit of no prejudicial intervention.

The result was such as to justify, to the fullest extent, the apprehension I had entertained.

R. S. McCULLOH, Esq.

Respectfully, yours, &c.,
JAMES B. LONGACRE.

No. 12.

MINT OF THE U. S., Jan. 30th, 1850.

DEAR SIR,—Since I have occupied that department of the Mint appropriated to the engraver, I think I am safe in saying, it has made no very extravagant drafts on your attention; now, however, a sense of justice to myself, seems to require that I should call your attention to a few matters of fact bearing more or less directly on my own position:

In the proper discharge of my official duties, I have labored, as you are aware, for some time in the production of the *dies* intended to be used in coining the *double eagle*, under such restrictions as were communicated by your direction or advice. It was on or about the 26th ult., that I received notice, in your presence, from the chief coiner, that the work I had done on the obverse die could not be *brought up* by the machinery designed for that purpose in the coining department. This was a disappointment and the subject of much concern to me, chiefly from its possible effect upon the public service devolving on my office, in which from the time the work was first undertaken, I had not spared myself, mentally or physically, in the labors required. No other course being proposed to me, in order to save time, as much as might be, I suggested what appeared the most obvious and available remedy for the difficulty; which was to reduce the *relief* on the *head of liberty*, on those parts which had not been *struck up* in attempting to use the die; my suggestion being approved, my work for this purpose, so far as I thought it necessary or safe to proceed without a fair trial of the striking power upon it, was completed on the 12th inst. Circumstances over which I had no control, delayed the trial for which I was then ready, until the evening of the 26th instant; the result of which is before us, and of which I shall have occasion to speak again. But then for the first time, I was informed by the chief coiner, that the *position* of the head on the die must be changed. Now, I cannot but regret that this notification was not made at an earlier period; because if the *position* of the head is a matter affecting the working, it was as apparent when the die was first arranged as at this moment; yet the idea was not even mentioned when the first trial was made with the dies. I may just say, that as a matter of taste, I should prefer not to make the change. I would not have you suppose, that I make

any objection to the work which any alteration of my own plans may require to facilitate the operations of the Mint; but I cannot be held responsible for the time consumed in alterations, the necessity of which is not generally apparent, and of which I have had no timely notification. The result of the trial above mentioned, was not satisfactory to me as an artist, as it respects the character of my work; and the further alteration which was required, involving carefulness and delicacy in the operation, to guide me intelligently whilst occupied therewith it was important that I should have by me, for the time, one of the pieces then struck; but on asking the chief coiner for one of them for this purpose, he declined complying with my request, on the ground of some alleged or apprehended difficulty in making up his accounts; and on my offering to deposit the value in his hands from my own pocket, solely with a view to expedite the public business, he refused absolutely and on any terms to allow me the use of one of them—and on my inquiry as to what he expected me to do under such circumstances, proposed the alternative, which I was constrained to accept—of an impression to be taken in silver.

I am justified, therefore, in assuming that this test is considered a fair one, by the party assuming or claiming the privilege of deciding. I have accordingly compared this impression in silver with those of the current gold coins in previous use at the Mint, and the deficiency in the character of the coin from want of *fulness*, is not much, if anything, to the disparagement of my work as it now stands. Could I have seen a coin of the same size *fully brought up* by the same machinery, I should have experienced no difficulty in adapting my work to the capacity of the striking machinery at the first; but I have no knowledge of any coin here of corresponding type being perfectly brought up by the process now in use.

I would now say, that it is most desirable to me to make the dies for the coin in question as perfect in execution and adaptation as may be attainable by all the skill that can be brought to bear upon them; and I shall prefer to follow your direction to this end rather than any other, only let me not be held accountable for the consumption of time occasioned by casualties, omissions, or untimely revisions occurring in departments other than my own, nor bear the charge of imperfections that have a legitimate habitation elsewhere.

With perfect esteem for your character as a gentleman, and sincere respect as my superior officer,

I remain, &c.,

JAMES B. LONGACRE.

R. M. PATTERSON, Esq.,
Director of the Mint.

No. 13.

MINT OF THE U. S., Philadelphia, Feb. 18th, 1850.

DEAR SIR,—You could have conferred no privilege I value more at this moment, than the authority I received from you to make a frank and full statement to you, personally, of the matters I conceive affecting my official place under your department.

I intend to be as brief as perspicuity and justice to myself will permit; but should I possibly exceed the limits you may have anticipated, I must only entreat your patience.

Since I saw you, it has occurred to me that I may have so expressed myself as to lead to a thought that I desired to shrink from the responsibility of my own statements, otherwise than in a confidential form; I assure you that I have no such purpose. While I desire to obtrude myself no further on your atten-

tion than is strictly necessary for my own vindication, the facts I may furnish are at your service for any object you may think required by the public welfare.

About a year ago, when the act of Congress adding two new denominations to the gold coinage was the subject of discussion, I was informed by a gentleman in the Mint, that he feared measures would be taken in relation thereto prejudicial to my position, intimating that a purpose existed on the part of another officer to have the engraving of the *dies* executed elsewhere and by some other hand than mine. Knowing the law designating my duties, I immediately waited on the director and apprized him that I was ready to commence the work. He assented to my suggestion, and requested me to commence making a model in wax for the *head*, which I accordingly executed, and subsequently engraved the dies for the gold dollar. The engraving was unusually minute and required very close and incessant labor for several weeks. I made the *original dies* and *hubs* for making the working dies twice over, to secure their perfect adaptation to the coining machinery. I had a wish to execute this work *single handed*, that I might thus silently reply to those who had questioned my ability for the work. The result, I believe, was satisfactory, but I then found I had tasked myself too severely for my health; and knowing that my labor would necessarily be increased with that which was to follow, I took occasion to say to the director, in the month of May last, that my department was not strong enough for such an emergency; as it rested with him legally and properly to order such assistance as I might require. I was surprised to find that he objected to making any addition to the force of my department by the employment of any person to assist me, saying that for that matter he saw no objection to having the engraving done out of the Mint—that it might be done by contract, as it was in France—that if it could not be done in this city, it might be done in any other part of the country or even in Europe. This remark closed my lips against any further application for aid; the law required that I, as the proper officer, should engrave all the dies for the Mint, and left it to the discretion of the director as to what assistance should be given me. I could not direct or control any work done out of the Mint, or by contract; I was not so empowered.

In consequence, I proceeded, as well as I was able, with the work necessary to produce the *dies* for the *double eagle*. I made a design and model of the *reverse*. The plan of operation selected for me was to have an *electrotype mould* made from my model, in copper, to serve as a pattern for a cast in iron. The operations of the galvanic battery for this purpose were conducted in the apartments of the chief coiner. The galvanic process failed; my model was destroyed in the operation. I had, however, taken the precaution to make a cast in plaster from my model, previous to subjecting it to the action of the galvanic battery. From this cast, as the only alternative, I procured a metallic one which, however, was not perfect; but I thought I should be able to correct the imperfections in the engraving of the die with more economy of time than in making a new model; this was a laborious task, but was seasonably competed, entirely by my own hand. The die had then to be hardened in the coining department; it unluckily split in the process. I had then to go to work with depressed spirits to overcome this unexpected misfortune to my work. When I had got through this, the original die was still to be finished for the *head*, and all the *hubs* to be made. For all this no assistance was yet provided for me, nor was it until late in October that I received authority to procure it. I had then to look for one qualified for the work, and at liberty to undertake it. Through the good offices of my friend, Mr. Wright, of New York, I was, in November last, enabled to obtain the services of a young man whom he had instructed, and who has rendered me valuable aid. But the

days had now become short and dark, and the light of my only room in the Mint was frequently rendered more obscure by the smoke of the steam engines and the melting and refining furnaces. The dies were finished and struck in December; but I then perceived that I had overrated the power of the coining press in use, in making the relief of the head too high for the work to come up full under the pressure that was employed. To accommodate the relief to the power of the press, I found it necessary to work over the face again; this was not the most certain or agreeable course to me, but I adopted it to save time. On the 12th of January last, I was ready for another trial, but I found no material in readiness, no gold prepared in the coining department, where the trial had to be made. This was a delay over which I had no control, and it was not until the 26th of the same month that I could obtain the second trial. The impressions taken were objected to by the officer at the head of that department as still not coming up sufficiently under the pressure applied. I wished to make the dies perfectly adapted to the power of the press used in coining, (I saw no other defect than a slight want of fullness in the centre of the piece,) and only regretted the additional delay that must ensue. I asked this officer for one of the gold pieces then struck to guide me in the very delicate operations yet required. He declined, on the ground of difficulty in his accounts. I offered to deposit the value from my own pocket, with no other view than to facilitate the public issue of the coin. He still declined, absolutely and on any terms, to allow me the temporary use of one of those pieces for my purpose. I asked him what he expected me to do under the circumstances. With some hesitation, he observed that I might have an impression taken in silver. This alternative, though not safe, nor even satisfactory to me, I was constrained to accept. The piece I had the opportunity of showing you on the 13th inst., was the one then obtained, by which you may form a tolerable judgment of the state of the dies from which it was taken.

The facts just stated were communicated to the Director; but I am not advised of any interposition in favor of my views by him.

In the operations of the Royal Mint of Great Britain, and, I believe, in most others, the right to decide upon the fitness of the dies for coining rests with the engraver, whose reputation is chiefly concerned; but a different order seems to be established here.

The impressions taken from my dies at the trial last mentioned, appeared to me equal to those of most of the coins in previous use. I regret that the unpleasant circumstance to which I have adverted, deprived me of the satisfaction of submitting one to your inspection.

I may add that under a *fair* trial, I have no fears for the fitness of the dies I have now on hand and nearly ready—being the third pair furnished for the same coin.

Until very recently, I have proved myself equal to all the work of the Mint put upon me, unaided. I asked for no help until I thought myself overtaken; I have never hesitated to undertake, nor intentionally delayed any labor pertaining to my office.

The law providing for the office of "engraver of the Mint," makes no allusion to that primitive branch of the art called "*die sinking*," and the omission appears to me judicious, for these reasons: the mere die-sinker, in this country at least, is rarely an educated artist; and the work to be done in *intaglio*, which is what is generally understood by die-sinking, forms but a minor part of the duties of the office. The work required in *cameo* being equally artistic and more laborious. And in fact, the engraver of the Mint, to discharge his duties intelligently, should be a designer and modeller, and possess a general knowledge of numismatics and heraldry. On my first introduction to the office, I was officially informed that the most important qualification was modelling,

and, I believe, I have not much cause to fear competition in this branch of the art.

If excellence in one branch of artistic skill necessarily implied a disqualification for every other, there would be force in the objection raised against the early training of my hand; but experience contradicts such a supposition. The history of art, from the times of Da Vinci, Angelo and Cellini to the present, is full of examples of eminent success on the part of men who have passed at will from the pencil to the graver or chisel, or *vice versa*.

Sevici, I believe, is still living; whose statues of "Christ on the Cross," and "Musidora," are among the finest in his own "Sculptural Illustrations." He was like myself a portrait engraver, and his truly magnificent portrait of Lord Ellenborough in judicial costume, from Sir T. Lawrence, will, I hope, sufficiently remind you of his excellence in that line. In this country, it is remarkable that the men who have shown the most superior talent as medalists, have been brought up to different pursuits. Gobrecht was a watchmaker; and Wright, of New York, a silversmith.

There is a peculiar difficulty to be met in engraving for the coinage of the Mint, unknown to the mere medalist or die-sinker, consisting in the very limited power of the press used in striking the coin; the extent of which can only be ascertained by very careful and repeated trials of the work on every change in the diameter of the piece to be struck. The utmost elevation of the *relief* of which it seems capable in the present instance, on either die, is less than the one hundredth part of an inch; consequently, it is within this limit the whole power and skill of the artist must be employed.

A more detailed and technical account of the various obstacles I have encountered, would present my position more strongly were I writing to a professional artist, but I must spare you the recital, lest I weary you.

I have been restrained, heretofore, by a sense of official etiquette from communicating with the proper executive authority, on the want of facilities (that under other circumstances would be considered indispensable) for the labors required of me under existing arrangements. If the representations I have made suggest any inquiries that I have not fully met, I am ready to answer them at the first intimation from you, in such manner as may appear most desirable.

Allow me to close, with a more agreeable reminiscence, that has been called up by the circumstances in which I so unexpectedly find myself. One of the most agreeable of my early works, was the portrait of Gouverneur Morris, at which time I was honored with the friendship of your father; this incident has caused me to feel a peculiar interest in your public career. And as the patriotic devotion of the Decii was hereditary, and as I remember, the daughter of Scipio Africanus was the mother of the Gracchi, my belief in the genealogy of public virtue persuades me that I shall not be made the victim of misrepresentation while my fate is in the hands of the officer I have now the honor to address.

With estimation and respect the most sincere,
(Signed)

JAMES B. LONGCORE.

Hon. W. M. MEREDITH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 14.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 4, 1851.

SIR,—That I may frame the specifications to the charges which I have preferred against the chief coiner of the Mint, Mr. Peale, in strict accordance with facts, some of which should be of record in the Mint, I have to request that I

may be furnished with the following items of account from the books or files of the Treasurer :

1. The cost of the new engine built by Morris & Co., when mounted ; and that of its gearing.
2. The cost of the tall chimney, the flues leading thereto, and the building erected in the area.
3. The cost of the new boilers and their setting.
4. Morgan & Orr's account for new draw-benches.
5. The cost of the new German rolls and their housings.
6. The cost of the new coining press for double eagles, &c.
7. The account of Cornelius, in 1846 or 1847, for an ornamental case for the gold balance of the chief coiner.
8. Copy of an account made out against the United States in the name of George Hall (workman in the Mint), in the summer of 1847, for a medal ; and which account had inscribed on its face, "being for expenses incurred during the visit of the President," or words to that effect.

Also, I respectfully ask that I may be furnished with copies of any official reports, letters, &c., not now in my possession and which relate to my process of refining with zinc, or to matters at issue between Prof. Booth and myself, concerning said process or his action with respect thereto.

Dr. G. N. ECKERT,
Director of the Mint.

With great respect,
Your obedient servant,
R. S. McCULLOH.

No. 15.

FIRST CHARGE.

"Lavish and unnecessary expenditure of public money, without adequate appropriation or useful effect."

SPECIFICATION.

1. In that said Franklin Peale, coiner of the Mint, has expended for an engine, boilers, rolls, building, chimney, &c., an amount of public money greatly exceeding the sum of \$20,800, the whole amount which was appropriated by an act of Congress approved May 15, 1850, for said objects, in conformity with the recommendation of the Director of the Mint, contained in his letter of Feb. 26, 1850, to the Secretary of the Treasury, submitting to the attention of said Secretary the official communication of said Peale to said Director, dated Jan. 16, 1850, and the accompanying estimate of \$20,800, alleged to have been carefully prepared by said Peale, as a basis for the aforesaid appropriation.

2. Also, in that said Peale has caused to be constructed costly, inefficient and useless machinery, such as the large lathe for turning rolls, a steam draw-bench, and a set of moulds for casting large ingots not adapted to the coining machinery, with accompanying apparatus for pouring, &c. ; and in that he has wastefully expended public money for fanciful objects, such as a ridiculous trumpet-blowing sofa, an excessively ornamental case and stand for a balance, &c.

SECOND CHARGE.

"Unofficerlike and demoralizing proceedings."

SPECIFICATION.

1. In that said Franklin Peale did, upon the occasion of the visit of President Polk to the Mint, cause to be struck and presented to him a copper medal ; for which medal a bill made out in a sum many times greater than it could possi-

bly have cost, and in the name of George Hall, a workman employed in the Mint, was presented and paid out of the contingent fund of the Mint, although said Hall had not made said medal, and was not the owner or giver thereof. Which facts having become known to, and being disapproved of by some of the officers of the Mint, a contribution was taken up by Mr. Dubois, assistant assayer, for the purpose, it was understood, of refunding to the United States, the money so paid to said Hall, but which money said Peale should himself have restored, or caused to be restored by said Hall.

2. Also, in that said Peale has repeatedly and improperly required workmen of the Mint, employed and paid by the government, to labor for his private benefit or purposes, at his dwelling or elsewhere, as well as within the Mint building; and in that said Peale has, without authority of law, made use of the workmen and machinery of the Mint to carry on an extensive, lucrative and improper business of manufacturing medals, for his own emolument, and at the expense of the United States, except for the precious metals contained, and perhaps the copper, or other materials.

THIRD CHARGE.

Malicious intermeddling with the duties of other officers of the Mint, and false representations of their conduct.

SPECIFICATION.

1. In that said Franklin Peale did interfere with the official duties of the engraver of the Mint, J. B. Longacre, Esq., in relation to the preparation of the dies for coining double eagles, by withholding from said Longacre the necessary and proper facilities for obtaining impressions, in consequence of which complaint was made by said Longacre, in writing, to Dr. Patterson, who, however, was so influenced by said Peale, as to induce him urgently to advise said Longacre to resign, for the alleged reason that an imperative communication, received from the executive authority of the Government, otherwise required him to be removed from office; whereupon the said Longacre went to Washington, and learned from the Secretary of the Treasury that representations had been made with reference to his aforesaid official work, calculated to create false impressions, and to procure his removal from office.

2. Also, in that said Peale did, in the year 1849, when I was melter and refiner, interfere with my deliveries of ingots to the Treasurer, by inducing the Director to request that said deliveries might never be made through the hands of Professor J. B. Reynolds, then my accomplished and meritorious assistant, under the pretext that as said Peale usually received ingots in person at the office of the Treasurer, from his subordinate, Mr. Sprague, a clerk, he, the said Peale, insisted that the said ingots should always be delivered by myself, and never by any one of official rank inferior to his own. And which pretext was urged by said Peale soon after he had wantonly outraged the feelings of said Reynolds, of which outrage I was separately informed by the said Sprague and Reynolds. Although indignant that a covert insult should have been added by said Peale to the offence he had previously committed against this most estimable and amiable gentleman, who, in science, morals, and manners, was, in every respect, far his superior, I yet agreed to comply with the aforesaid request of the Director, partly with a wish to pay due respect to official authority, but chiefly with a hope that I might thereby avert from Mr. Reynolds the further malice of said Peale, a hope in which I was, however, disappointed, if it be true that the said Peale did, by his influence with the Director, prevent the due fulfilment of the understanding had with said Reynolds, when he was provisionally employed in the Mint; to wit, that if his services in aid of the melter and

refiner were found to be necessary, then that an appropriation for his salary should be asked for, and his appointment as assistant melter and refiner, an office created by law, should be submitted to the President for his approbation. And the breach of which understanding compelled him, in self respect, to withdraw from the Mint, which lost to the Government the services of a valuable officer, and to our country his life; for in the business in which he was obliged afterwards to seek a livelihood, while in the zealous performance of his duty he was killed by an explosion. In lieu of this unfortunate scientific gentleman, whose services were found to be necessary, even while I was melter and refiner of the Mint, and must have been far more so since, by reason of increasingly heavy work, and the habitual and unprecedented absence of my successor from the Mint, during a great proportion of the time when he should have been in his office, but was absent attending to private business, there was substituted a young relative, if I have been correctly informed, of the late Director, possessing no appropriate scientific qualifications for an assistant to the melter and refiner of the Mint, and whose employment being neither provisional in emergency, nor contingent upon appropriation and approval by the President, as was that of Mr. Reynolds, but designed to be permanent without regular appointment or appropriated salary, and without the execution of a bond with security, or the obligation of an oath, as required by an act of Congress, approved January 18th, 1837, has therefore been, and now is, in derogation of law.

FOURTH CHARGE.

Appropriation to his own benefit or gain of that to which he was not legally entitled.

SPECIFICATION.

1. In that said Franklin Peale has, as above said, repeatedly required workmen of the Mint to labor for his benefit, appropriating to himself the value of said labor; and especially in that he has carried on, in the Mint, an extensive business of manufacturing medals for sale, without authority of law, at the expense of the United States, except for the metals whereof they were made, and, perhaps, some other materials; and without just distribution of the profits of said business to the workmen who performed the labor.

Princeton, Sept. 24, 1851.

RICHARD S. McCULLOH.

No. 16.

PRINCETON, Sept. 25, 1851.

SIR,—The enclosed specifications of the charges, preferred against the coiner of the Mint, Franklin Peale, Esq., in my letter to the President of August 1st., 1851, would more promptly have been furnished, if I had not retained them in the hope of receiving from you the information requested in my letter to you of the 4th inst., and which might have enabled me to state with more precision some of the facts to which said charges and specifications refer.

But, as said facts should be of record in the Mint and therefore immediately within your reach and control, I have preferred to trust that they will be duly inquired into by you, rather than to cause further delay.

If your proceedings in relation to the aforesaid charges are to be of the nature of a mere administrative inquiry, conducted without the presence of Mr. Peale, I will, after I shall have been so informed by you, furnish the names of persons with the particular matters about which they may be interrogated.

If, on the contrary, those charges are to be more formally prosecuted, and Mr. Peale is to be permitted to confront and cross-examine the witnesses who

may testify against him, then I will, if you will appoint a time for the investigation, notify them to be in attendance and will submit such proper legal interrogatories to be propounded to them as may be calculated to elicit the truth.

Very respectfully,

Dr. G. N. ECKERT,
Director of the Mint.

your obt. servt.,

RICHD. S. McCULLOH.

No. 17.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philad., 26 Sept., 1851.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communications dated the 25th and 26th inst., with the enclosures.

In reference to the delay in furnishing the information asked for in your letter of the 4th inst., I have to explain that it has been due, partly to the fact that one considerable item of expenditure, that for the engine, had not been paid for, and partly from the circumstance that the charges against the mint for many of the other items have been included with bills covering the different articles furnished by the same party, so that the details could not be separated without much difficulty. A statement on the subject will be completed with as little delay as possible.

With reference to the charges against Mr. Peale, it is my intention that my proceedings relative thereto shall be in the nature of an administrative inquiry, and I now, at your request, so inform you, and ask that you will furnish me with the names of persons whom it is your wish that I should examine on the subject. My inquiries will be without the presence of Mr. Peale.

I shall in a few days report to the Department relative to the expediency of additional experiments on your refining process, in your presence.

Very respectfully,

Prof. R. S. McCULLOH,
Princeton.

G. N. ECKERT,
Director.

P. S. There appears to be no further correspondence on file, having bearing on the matters at issue between yourself and Mr. Booth, beyond what you have already received.

No. 18.

PRINCETON, October 21st, 1851.

SIR,—In an interview which I lately had with you, you were pleased, as I recollect, to inform me, that, as the investigations and report, which you have been instructed to make in compliance with a request made by me in my letter to the President, of August 1, 1851, relate to three distinct matters, to wit: the expediency of a new trial of my process for refining gold; the charges preferred in said letter against Franklin Peale; and the charges made and implied therein with reference to the conduct of James C. Booth; it would, therefore, best consist with your views of the public interest, and consult your own convenience, to take up, dispose of and report upon the matter of the abovementioned expediency of a trial of said process, and then to investigate the charges against the aforesaid persons.

I did, therefore, address to you a communication, dated September 26th, 1851, in which I endeavored to show that it is important to the public interests that a just trial of the aforesaid process should be made in the Mint, and be conducted by myself.

In compliance with the request made in your letter to me of August 22, 1851, I also transmitted to you, enclosed in a letter dated September 25th, 1851, the specifications to the aforesaid charges against Franklin Peale, coiner of the Mint. And in further compliance with said request, and with that made in your letter to me of the 26th ult., as well as in fulfilment of the promise contained in my aforesaid letter to you, dated September 25th, 1851, that I would furnish the names of the persons, with the particular matters about which they may be interrogated, in proof of said charges and specifications against said Peale, I now respectfully submit :

1. That I have reason to believe that, James B. Longacre, engraver of the Mint, does know and would therefore, if properly interrogated, testify : that the said Franklin Peale did interfere with the official duties of the said Longacre, substantially as is set forth in the first section of the specification to the third of the aforesaid charges ; that he, the said Longacre, did make complaint thereof in writing to the Director of the Mint, but without redress ; that the said Director did then urge the said Longacre to resign, and did allege the reason stated in said specification ; that he, the said Longacre, did consequently go to Washington, and in an interview with the Secretary of the Treasury did learn that representations had been made, calculated to create false impressions and procure his removal from office ; and that he did, therefore, refute said representations in a letter to said Secretary.

2. That I also believe, that the said James B. Longacre, does know and, if interrogated, would therefore testify : that he, the said Longacre, did pay to William E. Du Bois, assistant assayer of the Mint, money in contribution for a medal said to have been presented to President Polk, and did understand from the said Du Bois, that said money was contributed for the benefit or gain of the said Franklin Peale ; and that he, the said Longacre, does know that the said Peale has carried on extensively the business of manufacturing medals in said Mint.

3. That the aforesaid William E. Du Bois may and should be officially required to testify, in relation to the specification of the second of the aforesaid charges : whether he, the said Du Bois, did or did not collect from the said Longacre, myself, and other officers of the Mint, contributions for the purpose of restoring to the United States a sum of money understood to have been improperly paid out of the contingent fund of said Mint to said George Hall, a workman then and now employed therein, for a medal presented to President Polk in a morocco or leather case or box ; what was the amount of said sum of money paid to said Hall, and what were the respective values, to the best of his knowledge or belief, of the metal composing said medal, and of the case containing the same ; what was the total amount of the money contributed, as aforesaid, by said Longacre, myself and others, and collected by said Du Bois ; and if it differed from the amount paid as aforesaid, to said Hall, then why did it so differ, and what was the extent of said difference ; what he the said Du Bois did with and what became of said contributed money ; by what authority, and at whose instance, he collected said contributed money ; whether he did or did not then know or understand, and whether he did or did not also give others to understand, that the said George Hall was not the owner and giver of said medal, but that said Peale was in fact the person who had caused the same to be struck and presented to President Polk, and for whose pecuniary benefit or gain, directly or indirectly, money had been paid as aforesaid, to said Hall for said medal out of the contingent fund of the Mint ; whether he, the said Du Bois, did not see the receipted bill of said Hall, for said medal and case, and if he did, then what was the amount thereof, and what was inscribed thereon in approval of said bill, and by whom ; whether he did or did not have an interview with the Director in relation to the impropriety of said bill, and of the

payment thereof, which had been made to said Hall; and if he did, then what occurred substantially in said interview, and was or was not the same held in the presence of said Peale.

4. That the books and files in the office of the treasurer of the Mint, for the year 1847, should be examined, and, if necessary, inquiry be made of the aforesaid William E. Du Bois and of George Edelman, clerk in said office, to ascertain, if practicable, what became of the aforesaid receipted bill of said Hall, and of the corresponding warrant of the Director for its payment; whether they are or are not now of record in the Mint; whether they were or were not cancelled, suppressed or destroyed; whether entry of said bill and said corresponding warrant was or was not made in the books of said Mint; and if such entry was made and afterwards erased from said books, then by whose order or what authority was such erasure made.

5. That the aforesaid George Hall should be interrogated, and be required to exculpate himself, if he can, and to state truly: whether he did or did not claim to be, and whether he does not now profess to have been, the owner and giver of the medal presented, as aforesaid, to President Polk; and if not, then who was the person claiming to be the owner and giver of said medal; by what right, or by whose request, order or advice, in what amount, and for whose pecuniary benefit, directly or indirectly, the said Hall did present an account in his own name against the United States for said medal, and did receive payment for the same out of the contingent fund of the Mint; what he did with and what became of the money so paid to him; whether said money or any part thereof was or was not restored or refunded to the United States; and if restoration of said money, or any part thereof was made, then by whom was it made, and to whose profit and benefit, directly or indirectly, did the sum of money flow, which was contributed by the officers of the Mint for the purpose of restoring to the United States the money which had been paid, as aforesaid, to said Hall; what was the value of the metal composing said medal, and what the value of the case containing it, and to whom did said case belong. And if said Hall should claim, or profess to have been the owner and giver of said medal, then he should be required to show, or prove how, or by virtue of what right or consideration, he became the owner thereof; and be required also to justify his having illegally demanded and received payment from the United States for said medal, after it had been presented by him to President Polk, and to state under what authority, or by whose order, request or advice, he made said illegal demand and received said illegal payment.

6. That I did myself see the aforesaid receipted bill of said Hall; that I did pay to the said Du Bois, at his solicitation, money in contribution to refund to the United States the sum paid as aforesaid to said Hall; and that said Du Bois did, as I recollect, then remark to me—"We formerly paid for the Assay Commissioners' dinner out of our own pockets, but since the Government has assumed that as a public expense, we seem to have become of easier virtue."

7. That Joseph Canby, machinist, employed in the Mint, does, I believe, know in relation to the second part of the specification to the first of the aforesaid charges preferred against the said Franklin Peale: that a steam draw-bench for gold or silver strips was made in the machine shop of the Mint, by the order and under the direction of said Peale, which when finished was tried and found not to answer; that said draw-bench was then deposited in the loft of said Mint as useless, and that said useless draw-bench must have cost the United States a large sum of money, probably \$1,500 to 2,000; that there was built in said machine shop a large lathe for turning chilled rolls, which, when tried, was found not to answer the purpose for which it was intended, and that said useless lathe must have cost the United States a large sum of money, pro-

bably at least \$2,000 ; that said Canby has seen in said Mint an apparatus for casting large ingots, which must have cost a large amount of money, and which was neither in use nor adapted to the coining machinery of said Mint ; that he, the said Canby, with the assistance of William M. Snider, machinist, then employed in said Mint, did construct under the direction and by the order of said Peale, as coiner of said Mint, a balance or pair of scales for his use, and that there was expended much unnecessary and expensive work upon a fanciful support and case for said balance ; also, that a number of workmen of said Mint were, by order of said Peale, required to construct a ridiculous trumpet-blowing sofa, said to have been for the office of said Peale.

8. That I have reason to believe that the workmen of the melting department of the Mint who have been employed therein for many years, Archibald Porter, John Monell, Thos. Llewellyn, Aaron Craven, and George Summers, senior, do know that the aforesaid apparatus for casting large ingots was constructed by order of said Peale for said department, and by a kinsman of said Peale : also that it was tried by said Peale and found to be useless. And the books of the Mint will probably show that a large sum of money was paid for said useless apparatus for casting ingots.

9. That, in proof of the 2nd section of the specification of the second, and of the specification of the fourth of the above-mentioned charges against Franklin Peale, the aforesaid Joseph Canby does, I have reason to believe, know and would, therefore, if properly interrogated, testify : that he, the said Canby, has repeatedly worked for several days together, in the Mint, by order of said Peale, upon work for the private purposes or benefit of said Peale, and during hours when he, the said Canby, should have been occupied with the proper work of said Mint ; that he was not paid by said Peale for work so done by his order and for his benefit, but was in the employ and pay of, and should, therefore, have been at work for the United States ; that other workmen of the Mint have been similarly and often required by said Peale to work for his private benefit, in time for which they were in the employ and pay of, and should have been at work for the United States ; that he, the said Canby, and other workmen of the Mint, have been required, at different times, by said Peale, to manufacture or repair articles for the private dwelling of said Peale ; and that he, the said Canby, can specify work done, as aforesaid, in the Mint, by the order and for the benefit of said Peale, as well as for his dwelling, and the name of the workmen by whom it was done ; also, that numerous medals for various institutions, associations, &c., have been made in the Mint by the order and for the private purposes of said Peale, by the following workmen, George Eckfeldt, Jacob Lower, Samuel Derixson, George Hinicle, and Jacob Eckfeldt, brother of said George Eckfeldt, during the proper working hours of the Mint, as well as at other times.

10. That, in further proof of the specifications and charges last above cited, Robert Wallace, one of the workmen of the Mint, and a carpenter by trade, does, I believe, know, and if properly interrogated would, therefore, testify : that he, the said Wallace, when in the employ and pay of the United States, has at various times been required by the said Franklin Peale, to go to and do carpenter's work at the dwelling of said Peale ; that he, the said Wallace, has made and repaired at the Mint household furniture and various other articles for the benefit and by order of said Peale ; and that other workmen of the Mint have been frequently required by said Peale to work for his private benefit, profit or gain, when they were in the employ and pay of the United States, and should, therefore, have been occupied in the performance of the work of said Mint.

11. That Phineas Rowan, a workman of the Mint and by trade a plasterer, does, I believe, know, that by order of the said Franklin Peale, he, the

said Rowan, when in the employ and pay of the United States, has done plasterers' work in or upon the dwelling house of said Peale; and that he, the said Rowan, and other workmen of the Mint, have been required by said Peale to do other work for the benefit of said Peale, in the Mint or elsewhere.

12. That Jacob Lower, another workman of the Mint, does, I believe, know that he has helped to make numerous medals, in the Mint, by the order and for the benefit or gain of said Franklin Peale; that many of said medals did, by their devices and inscriptions, purport to be for the Franklin Institute and other industrial associations; and that, at the request or by the order of said Peale, he, the said Lower, did collect from a certain Mr. Dorigo, teacher of a singing school in Philadelphia, money for medals made for said Dorigo in the Mint by order of said Peale, and did deliver said money to said Peale.

13. That John Agnew, Esq., a manufacturing machinist in Vine street, Philadelphia, and a member of the committee on accounts of the Franklin Institute, does, I believe, know: that for several years past the said Franklin Institute has purchased of Franklin Peale the gold and silver medals awarded as premiums at its annual industrial exhibitions; that the dies from which said medals have been struck in the Mint are the property of said Institute; that said Institute has usually paid to said Peale five dollars for each of its aforesaid silver medals; and that said price has been deemed exorbitant by said Agnew and by other members of said Institute.

As the silver contained in each of said Franklin Institute medals is worth only about two dollars and a half, or two dollars and a quarter, the profits which have accrued to said Peale from making said medals must, therefore, have been about one hundred per cent. upon their metallic value, while the requisite machinery and labor has been furnished by and at the expense of the United States.

14. That, if you see fit to prosecute your inquiry in relation to the medal making business, which has been extensively carried on in the Mint by the said Franklin Peale, you may and probably will learn or find: that it has been done without authority of law; that it has been pursued for the private emolument of said Peale; that it has been at the expense of the United States, except for the precious metals contained in said medals, and perhaps some other materials; that the bullion of the Mint has been used for the accommodation of said Peale in said business, by advances improperly extended to him, as well as by exchanges of equal value; that he has given to the workmen who have made said medals but a small portion of the profits derived therefrom; that money which may have been so given to them by him has been rather of the nature of donations gratuitously bestowed than of just compensation for value received; that he has caused numerous and various medals to be made in the Mint, not only for the aforesaid Mr. Dorigo and the Franklin Institute, but also for other industrial associations, and for the Government, to be distributed to the Indian tribes, or to be presented to officers of the army and others; that for said medals for the Indian tribes, Congress appropriated the sum of \$2,500, by an act approved July 17, 1842; the sum of \$2,500, by an act approved July 27, 1846; the sum of \$2,500, by an act approved March 3, 1849; and the sum of \$1,500, by an act approved September 30, 1850; that the accounts of the Indian Department will show that the money so appropriated was paid to said Peale; that the files or accounts of the War Department will also show that the medals of gold which the President was authorized and requested to present to General Taylor, by resolutions of Congress, approved respectively July 16, 1846, March 2, 1847, and May 9, 1848, and the medal of gold which the President was requested to present to General

Scott, by a joint resolution approved March 9, 1848, were procured or purchased of said Franklin Peale; that of these gold medals the first two only were struck from dies prepared in the Mint, and under the direction of said Peale; that said dies were executed in a style discreditable alike to the Mint and to said Peale; that the reverse of the medal presented, in the name of the Republic, to General Taylor for the brilliant operations of the Rio Grande, in pursuance of the above-mentioned resolution of Congress, approved July 16, 1846, and procured as aforesaid of said Peale, was in fact only a copy of the reverse of the medal formerly presented to General Scott, in commemoration of the battle of Chippewa, with the inscription altered, and was obtained and struck from the reverse die of said Chippewa medal—said die having been deposited in the Mint, and being then in the custody of said Peale; that the engraver or professional artist of the Mint, James B. Longacre, Esq., had nothing to do with the preparation of the dies for, or execution of, either of said gold medals; that C. C. Wright, Esq., engraver, of New York, was employed to engrave the dies used by the said Peale for the medals of the aforesaid resolutions of Congress of March 9, 1848, and May 9, 1848; that said Wright did also engrave the dies for the large number of gold and silver medals recently struck in the Mint, to be presented, by request of Congress, to the officers and men of the French, British and Spanish ships of war, who aided in rescuing from a watery grave many of the officers and crew of the United States brig Somers; finally, that the Government has procured or purchased the aforesaid medals at high cost from said Peale; and that he has thereby appropriated to himself large profits, to which he was not entitled, upon the work done in the Mint by workmen in the employ and pay of the Government.

15. That I have reason to believe that William M. Snider, of Philadelphia, machinist, formerly and for many years employed in the Mint, does know, and if properly interrogated, would therefore testify: that the various attempts of said Franklin Peale to invent or improve on machinery in the Mint have been attended with great extravagance or waste of the public money; that he, the said Snider, has seen the aforesaid drawbench, lathe for turning rolls, and apparatus for casting large ingots, and does know the same to have been useless and very costly; that the aforesaid balance, or pair of scales, with its ornamented table and cases, was extravagantly and unnecessarily expensive; that he, the said Snider, was required by said Peale to work for about two weeks on the trumpets for the above-mentioned fantastic sofa, and that said sofa was made in the Mint by order of said Peale, and at a very unnecessary expense to the United States; that he, the said Snider, and other workmen of the Mint, have repeatedly been required by said Peale to quit the work of said Mint, for which he and they were employed and paid by the United States, and directed to go to work for days together upon things for the private purposes, benefit or pecuniary gain of said Peale; that said Peale has often required workmen of the Mint, during the regular working hours of said Mint, to go to his dwelling and there perform work for his benefit; that, by order of said Peale, furniture for his dwelling has been both made and repaired at the Mint by the workmen employed therein by the United States; that he, the said Snider, does know that the aforesaid John Agnew, Esq., did inform me, that he, the said Agnew, had passed accounts of the said Peale against the Franklin Institute for medals sold by said Peale to said Institute, and had objected to the price charged therefor by said Peale as exorbitant; that he, the said Snider, does also know that, by order of, and for the private purposes, benefit or gain of the said Peale, medals have been manufactured extensively in the Mint, as aforesaid, by the men and machinery of said Mint, and at the expense of the United States, except for the metals contained, and perhaps some other materials; that the medals for the Indian tribes, which may have been sold by said Peale to the

United States, were manufactured in the Mint by the workmen and machinery thereof, and at the expense of the United States, except for the metals contained and perhaps some other materials; that the medal presented to General Taylor, for the brilliant victories on the Rio Grande, was executed, as aforesaid, in a very discreditable style, under the direction of said Peale, and that the reverse of said medal was only, as above stated, a copy of the reverse of the medal of General Scott, for the battle of Chippewa, with the inscription altered, as the medals themselves, or the dies thereof, or the copies of said medals in the War Department do readily show; also, that the reverse die of the said Chippewa medal was used, as aforesaid, for the purpose of making the medal of the victories of the Rio Grande.

16. That in relation to the first section of the first of the aforesaid charges, the late Director of the Mint did, in a letter addressed to a member of Congress, and dated January 4, 1851, estimate at the sum of \$12,000, the excess of the expenditures for the new building, machinery and apparatus constructed in said Mint, over the sum of \$20,800 appropriated for said purposes by Congress; but that if there has been any such excess, the accounts of the Mint should and, I presume, will show what has been the exact amount thereof; also, that if you should pursue the inquiry, you will probably find that much of the aforesaid new machinery might have been dispensed with, and the expense thereof have been thus saved to the United States.

17. That in relation to the second part of the specification of the third of the aforesaid charges, I am, myself, responsible for what I have therein stated of my own knowledge; but of the relationship of the late Director to the young gentleman holding the position of assistant to the melter and refiner, James C. Booth, in derogation of law, inquiry may, I presume, be readily made either of the said young gentleman, or of the son of said late Director, now employed in the Mint, and acting as your confidential clerk. Concerning the probability expressed in said specification, "that said Peale did, by his influence with the late Director, prevent the due fulfilment of the understanding had with said Reynolds," I now state, that after I had, at the request of said Reynolds, endeavored to persuade the said Director to fulfil said understanding, the aforesaid James C. Booth did undertake to urge said fulfilment upon said Director, and did subsequently inform me orally, that he, the said Booth, had so done ineffectually, and that the malice of said Peale against myself was the obstacle in the way of said fulfilment.

I may here also state that, as the said Director had entreated said Booth to agree to accept office in the Mint, I did then, as I do now, believe, that, notwithstanding any influence of said Peale, the said Booth might and should have caused the aforesaid understanding with the said Reynolds to have been fulfilled; and that I did, therefore, as I do still, believe that he, the said Booth, was and is largely responsible for the unjust treatment of said Reynolds, and the more so because said Reynolds, after having become a candidate for the office of melter and refiner of the Mint, about to be vacated by my resignation, did first generously relinquish his own just aspirations thereto, in favor of those of said Booth, and then gracefully congratulate and patiently instruct him in the modes of calculating required for alloying the precious metals, when it was understood that he would be appointed to the office.

In conclusion, I may remark, that I could myself testify of knowledge to much that I have herein mentioned, as in my belief known to others, and that as the abuses of the said Franklin Peale are, and have long been, notorious in the Mint, the testimony thereto might be rendered cumulative, if the persons employed in said Mint felt confident that they would be secure or protected against his vindictiveness, and that continuance in official position and power

does not, in the Mint, depend upon relations and considerations of policy, irrespective of fitness or unfitness for office.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. N. ECKERT,

Director of the Mint.

RICHARD S. McCULLOH,

No. 19.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philad., January 16th, 1850.

SIR,—Your are aware that the condition of the boilers of the large engine, has been a subject of anxiety for a long time. In use since the year 1832, they are consequently 17 years old, and subject to a pressure of 150 lbs. to the inch. They have frequently been repaired, by patching and otherwise, and since the employment of steam generated by them in the refinery, are incapable of supplying a sufficient amount to keep both departments in operation at the same time.

Under these circumstances, it has become a duty to state that new boilers are absolutely necessary. As it would be bad policy to continue to use steam, at so high a pressure, and as the position which these boilers have hitherto occupied is excessively injurious to the machinery, building, and workmen.

I respectfully suggest that measures be taken to procure a new set, arranged so as to supply the place of the 3 sets now in use, the whole to be under one general superintendence, thereby reducing labor and expense.

To the foregoing, I beg leave to add, that the noxious vapors from the parting process, render our establishment, to say the least, offensive to the neighborhood.

To carry these away more effectually, to give a better draught, and to increase our safety from fire and protection to the health of the workmen, I recommend that a large and high central flue be erected, into which all requisite flues be carried. For the purpose of procuring additional space for the refinery, which is now exceedingly cramped, adding to our effective power, reducing manual labor, and for the better oversight and control of the rolling and cutting departments, it is recommended that the place of the large engine be changed, the engine itself being scarcely able at this time to do the work required of it, and entirely insufficient under the contemplated reduced pressure; and finally the bad construction and inefficiency of the housing and rolls, require that this system should be changed.

These are a few of the facts, briefly stated, which require attention, in the present condition of the Mint, the increasing duties and labor of the establishment demand an active consideration of means of meeting the exigency. I therefore present herewith designs of parts of the premises, with the desired additions and changes, together with estimates of cost of their construction.

The sale of the old boilers and engine will reduce to some extent the cost of the whole improvement, but as the amount cannot be ascertained until they are sold, it has not been considered in the estimate.

All these matters have been carefully considered and digested, and are now presented under the conviction of their necessity, and that they will remove by their execution all the embarrassments under which we are laboring.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

Your obt. servant,

FRANKLIN PEALE,

Chief Coiner.

Dr. R. M. PATTERSON,

Director.

*Estimate in accordance with designs for new boilers and flue for vapors,
&c., &c.*

Chimney to carry off deleterious fumes, &c.....	\$1,200
Building in court for boilers, &c.....	2,500
Engine (finished).....	6,000
Boilers for 2 engines and supply of steam.....	1,500
Setting of boilers.....	1,200
3 pair Berlin cast steel rolls.....	3,600
3 pair of housings.....	3,000
Running gear.....	200
Contingencies.....	1,500
	<hr/>
	\$20,800

No. 20.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philad., Feb. 26, 1850.

SIR,—I have the honor to ask your attention to the enclosed letter from the chief coiner of the Mint. The necessity of replacing the old boilers of our large engine is imperative, and it offers an opportunity of reforming the whole arrangement of that part of the Mint, of which we are anxious to take advantage. The changes proposed by Mr. Peale are the results of full reflection and consultation, and I believe that they would, if carried into effect, be a great benefit to the Mint. I beg leave, therefore, to ask, with your consent, for an appropriation of \$20,800 for this object. The sum required is founded on the estimates carefully prepared by Mr. Peale, and presented herewith.

Very resp'y, y'r faith. serv't,

Hon. W. M. MEREDITH,
Sec. of the Treas'y.

R. M. PATTERSON,
Director.

No. 21.

Work done in the U. S. Mint, not for the Government.

A lot of weights and measures were worked upon by William M. Snider, for certain counties in Pennsylvania. Medals of different kinds and for different institutions, associations, &c., were made, according to Franklin Peale's orders, and the work of said medals was executed by George Eckfeldt, Jacob Lower, Samuel Derixon, Jacob Eckfeldt, (brother of the said George,) and George Hinicle. About the time of a certain fair, (held, I believe, by the Musical Fund Society,) there was a considerable amount of work done by William M. Snider. Franklin Peale was engaged about the time of the said fair in making kites. William M. Snider was for some time doing work pertaining to archery. Franklin Peale had a number of men, that were employed by the Government, doing a very foolish and expensive piece of work, for a sofa, said to be for his office; which job, in my opinion, must have cost the Government between one and two hundred dollars; and which work now has been destroyed or thrown one side. J. Canby worked on a parlor drum, so called, for several days. Kitchen utensils were brought into the mint and repaired by James Noble. Iron tables were fitted up in the machine shop, by the men of the shop. Old

chairs cleaned or repaired. Jonathan Tompkins worked on an alarm bell, and work connected therewith, which occupied nine days ; which job, I understood was for Franklin Peale's private residence. Joseph Canby was engaged three days of the Government time in polishing a brass plate, said to be for Franklin Peale's brother ; the said plate appeared to be intended for a mirror. Joseph Canby worked on door fastenings, at different times, which were for Franklin Peale's private residence. Joseph Canby done work on an air gun, said to be for the said Peale.

Uselessness and Costliness.

I have seen an apparatus for melting gold and silver stowed away in the Mint, which must have cost a very large amount of money, and said to have been built by the said Franklin Peale.

Franklin Peale had made in the machine shop of the mint, a steam draw bench for gold and silver strips ; which, judging from the time it was making must have cost the Government from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars. It was then deposited in the loft as useless and good for nothing.

There was also built in the machine shop a large lathe for turning chilled rolls ; which occupied a long time, and I think must have cost the Government, at the lowest calculation, \$2,000 ; that had a trial and was found not to answer the purpose that it was intended for.

Joseph Canby made, with the assistance of William M. Snider, a pair of scales for the chief coiners weighing ; which, I think, did not cost less than 1,800 or 2,000 dollars, there being much unnecessary work spent thereon. It was Peale's intention to have had the beam and other parts gilded with gold and he undertook the process, but failed.

JOSEPH CANBY.

No. 22.

DEAR SIR—I understand you want to know how much time I was working for Mr. Peale's private use. I will cheerfully give you that information. I was two days plastering at his house, and one half day shaking carpets—this is about all that I have done for him.

Your's respectfully,

Mr. McCULLOH.

P. ROWAN.

No. 23.

SIR—I give you a few facts of work done for Franklin Peale, by his orders. At his own house I was two days, with John Rickard to assist me, cutting the pannels out of framing under the stairs, and putting in gauze wire. And, by the said Peale's orders, I was sent to fix a window sash at said house ; likewise other jobbing at different times at same place. And, by the said Peale's orders, I have made several boxes to pack up medals in ; and, by the same orders have made bows and arrows. Likewise made music stand, and repaired others. And I have repaired a number of chairs, besides several other things.

Mr. McCULLOH.

ROBERT WALLACE.

No. 24.

PHILADELPHIA, December 1850.

DEAR SIR :—You have been referred to me, and you request me to state what I know of any malversations or abuses on the part of any in the employ of Government at the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Before I proceed to give you a *skeleton* of some of my recollections of what

have considered the abuses of power in the Mint, I think it proper, in the event of your using this, to put herein a brief statement of my position there.

I had been employed in the Mint as machinist for about ten years and a half at a salary of \$600. This salary I had often hoped would be raised, as it was inadequate to the support of my family. I had been, from time to time, induced to bear with it from the persuasions of my brother, Mr. Jacob Snider, Jr., of this city, whose personal relations with the chief officers were of that sort as to lead me to fear offence might be taken if I declined the service. It, however, became to me unbearable, from the intolerance and contemptible littleness and malversations of Franklin Peale, the chief coiner, to whom I was principally subordinate. Finding that I was without hope of that advancement of wages to which I can prove my talents as machinist entitled me, I resigned my place by the following letter to the Director :—

PHILADELPHIA, January 7th, 1850.

SIR :—I respectfully tender to you the resignation of my situation as machinist in the United States Mint. I am aware that this will be welcomed by at least one officer in the Mint.

From the many things unpleasant to me that have been reported as said of me in the Mint, I am not sure that some designing person might not impute my resignation to a wrong motive, or torture it into my having been discharged. I choose, therefore, to have it on record that I have resigned, and for one reason, among others, that whilst I have been, from the first few weeks after I entered the Mint, more than ten years ago, employed principally on work that ordinary machinists could not have done, I have failed to get any better appreciation or remuneration for my labor than those who did inferior work. Especially to yourself, sir, I take this occasion to say that I am, and ever have been, very sensible of your courtesy and kindness on all occasions, and it will afford me pleasure if I can, in any way hereafter, more substantially manifest my sense of it.

I am, very respectfully,

To DR. R. M. PATTERSON,

W. M. SNIDER.

Director of the U. S. Mint at Philadelphia.

In proof of there being no just complaint against me, I also annex the reply of the Director :—

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, }
January 8th, 1850. }

DEAR SIR :—I have just received your letter of yesterday, in which you present the resignation of your place as a machinist in the Mint. This action on your part closes a connection between us of more than ten years' duration; and I cannot part from you without expressing my opinion of your skill and ingenuity, my personal regard, and my sincere wishes for your welfare.

Very truly, your friend, &c.,

R. M. PATTERSON, Director.

That you may judge how far I was originally entitled to a respectable position in the Mint, I can refer to my recommendations as machinist to the South Sea Exploring Expedition, which were signed by the Director of the Mint and distinguished citizens here. If it be your purpose to use the facts I give you, in order to justify the Government in any action they may be about to take, I wish here to disclaim all political or partizan feeling towards any one in the Mint. My politics have been always known to be Whig. As there were other than political motives for not discharging me from the Mint, I always attributed the deceitful and disagreeable treatment I received from the chief coiner and his

subordinates, to a desire on their part to disgust me, and render my place so onerous and disagreeable to me, as to induce me to resign. Their peculiar faculty for doing this enabled them to succeed. There are honest and good men, unpretending mechanics, in the Mint, who are Democratic in their politics, and who are as much entitled to be there, by their integrity and fitness, as any men to be found. As to the Director of the Mint, I have only to repeat the expressions of my letter of resignation. If the malversations of officers, of whom he had by law the superintendence, shall reflect on him, it is one of the responsibilities of the office of Director which he must expect to meet.

It is difficult, at once, to look back through a period of so many years, and hastily write down any large part of what I think can be proved to have been done wrong in the Mint, but I will give you a few of my reminiscences, beginning with one statement, which alone, if substantiated, would require, I should suppose, the chief coiner's dismissal, if not the Director's.

About the year 1847, the counties of Alleghany and Philadelphia having ordered copies of the standard weights and measures of the United States belonging to the State of Pennsylvania, on deposit in the Mint, the copies were made by F. Myers & Co. of Philadelphia, and, when done, were brought to the Mint to be adjusted, and the seals, in brass, of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania put on. This work was done at the Mint by myself and other workmen at the Mint, then in the employ of the United States Government, and receiving daily wages as such.

For this work done thus in the Mint by the said employees of the United States Government, the said Franklin Peale, the then, and now, chief coiner in the Mint, rendered bills against the said counties of Alleghany and Philadelphia for \$50 each, as due to him for said work done, and received the money therefor, directly or indirectly, through the said F. Myers & Co.

Of this fact I am assured by Myers & Co., who tell me they paid said money to Peale, and have his receipt for it, and expressed surprise that I received no part of it.

If the accounts of the Mint exhibit a credit of this money it is well, but even then it is putting the Mint in competition with private workshops.

Joseph Canby (lately, April, 1850) made a note of the time Jonathan Tompkins was at work on an alarm bell *for Mr. Peale's private dwelling*, and the time occupied by the said Tompkins, one of the men in the Government employ, was about two weeks on said bell and fixtures.

Joseph Canby was, about November, 1849, occupied three days in polishing a brass mirror for Rembrandt Peale, the brother of Franklin Peale, and which work was for the private use and benefit of the said R. Peale.

About 1846, or 1847, the aforesaid Jonathan Tompkins was building a turning lathe for himself, when Mr. Peale, as Tompkins says, requested him to bring it to the Mint and finish it, which he did, and occupied two or three weeks of all his time when he was in the employ of the Government, and drawing his wages as such, and there finished said lathe, which was afterwards exhibited in the exhibition of the Franklin Institute, and then sold by said Tompkins to Mr. Henry, of Philadelphia.

The said Franklin Peale has for years furnished the gold, and silver, and copper medals used annually by the various societies known as the "Franklin Institute," "Mechanics' Institute of New York," the "Horticultural Society of Massachusetts," and others; and has used material belonging to the United States government, and tools, and labor, and time of himself and the workmen of the Mint to execute said medals, and then has sold them to said societies or corporations for his own benefit.

That on other occasions, to further his private ends, and objects with which he is connected, and to aggrandize himself, or bring pecuniary profit to himself,

the said chief coiner has made medals thus in the Mint, and in so doing using the materials, time and labor paid for and belonging to the United States government; such as, for example, making medals for the scholars of a musical class or society conducted by one Mr. Dorigo, a teacher of music.

The said Franklin Peale is in the habit of using his own time and that of the workmen of the Mint, and the material and tools of the government, to make copper copies of the national medals, which he sells *ad libitum*, to whoever will buy them, and this he does for his own pecuniary benefit.

That he has been known to give donations or gratuities to some of the workmen, favorites of his, who do his bidding, to aid in these things, whilst at the same time they were paid by, and in the service of the United States government.

That the said Peale has been known often to employ the workmen of the Mint, during the working hours of the Mint, to go to his dwelling-house, and there to perform labor for his private benefit, such as for example, to do errands, to drive him about in a carriage when on his own private business, and to drive his daughter about in a carriage during hours for which the said workman (Gilchrist) receives pay from the government for work done at the Mint.

The extravagance of the said Peale in his attempts to invent or improve on machinery is notorious in the Mint, and thousands of dollars of time and money have been uselessly expended, and then said material thrown aside as useless, much of which now lies in different parts of the Mint utterly useless.

On the occasion of a great fair held at the Musical Fund Hall, at Philadelphia (of which the said Peale was a member) to raise funds for the sole benefit of said "Musical Fund Society," W. M. Snider, then a workman at the Mint, and in the employ of the government, was directed by said Peale to quit the work he was then on (balances of the government for the Mint) and go to work on some fixtures or apparatus for juggler's tricks.

That this apparatus was used at said fair, and was then exhibited by the said Peale to the visitors or spectators; and on this juggler work the said Snider was employed for about two days at the Mint.

That during the said exhibition at the said fair the said Peale was dressed in the costume of a Turk, whilst performing these juggler tricks with the apparatus so worked at by said Snider at the Mint, and that the Director of the Mint is cognizant of these facts, as he occupied the front seat at said exhibition.

That in further proof of this fact, the said Peale afterwards had executed his portrait in wax medallion, in the said head dress of a Turkish juggler.

That the said Peale then and now chief coiner in the Mint of the United States, about or before the date of said great fair for the "Musical Fund Society," frequently for weeks during the hours that his time and talents were paid for by the United States government, occupied himself and the workmen of the Mint, in making kites of various sizes and forms and flying the same from the roof of the Mint, and made and caused to be made at the Mint a great number of said kites, which were sold, or offered for sale at the said fair for the benefit of said "Musical Fund Society."

That the said Peale is or was a prominent member of an "Archery Club," and that on various occasions of said club holding its exercise meetings or gatherings the said Peale took to the country with him on such occasions, to assist him in these delightful pastimes, the workmen of the Mint during the hours that the said workmen were in the employ of, and their time and labor paid for by, the United States government; and that moreover the said time and labor of the workmen were often employed at the Mint in preparing and fixing the tents, bows and arrows, and other apparatus, preparatory to these archery excursions.

The said W. M. Snider, then a workman in said Mint, has by the directions of said Peale, worked during the hours for which his time and labor was paid

for by the United States government, for several days, making and fixing arrow heads and other work pertaining to said "Archery Club."

That most of these facts are and have been known to the Director of the Mint, Robert M. Patterson.

That about the year 1846 or 7, the said Franklin Peale had various workmen of the Mint employed at the Mint to make a sofa, which was to blow trumpets when a person sat on it,—the carpenter, Robert Wallace,—James Noble, employed in rolling room, made copper trumpets,—David Gilbert, of the machine shop, made the springs, and W. M. Snider was near or full two weeks making the mouth-pieces and valves of trumpets and other fixings. James Pierrie, who now works in the Mint, was sent for to paint it in imitation of rose wood.

The various workmen of the Mint have been occupied in making office furniture for the rooms of Mr. Peale and the Director, in a manner to consume time and material, that caused them to cost four times as much as requisite.

Old machinery is sold privately by the officers, instead of being offered at public sale. James Canby, a workman of the Mint about November, 1849, was employed by said Peale to convert a tamborine into a parlor drum, with keys, for the use of the wife of said Peale.

Wallace, the carpenter, and other workmen, were employed to make a folding music stand of rosewood for the private dwelling of said Peale. That the said Peale caused a turning lathe to be built in the Mint, which when done was used principally for turning various things for the private use of himself and others in the Mint.

That the tin kitchen utensils, shower bath fixtures, &c., of the private domestic household of the said Peale, are usually repaired at the Mint by the workmen.

That the modern arbor, or trellis, in front of the dwelling of the said Peale, was made at the Mint.

All these things so done by the workmen at the Mint, were done during the usual working hours of the Mint, and in the time paid for by the government.

Cast-iron tables for the parlors of the private dwelling of said Peale were fitted up at the Mint.

His furniture, such as old chairs, &c., was sent to and repaired at the Mint. Old silver of Mr. Peale's cleaned up by the workmen.

That old silver plate brought to the Mint to be coined into money the said Peale and others frequently purchased, at the price of old metal, had it cleaned up and used it for themselves.

In 1847, upon an occasion when Geo. Eckfeldt, the foreman of the machine shop, (who gets \$3 25 per day from government, and does work on his own private account in the Mint) had a dispute with Peale, and felt himself aggrieved by Peale, he, the said Eckfeldt, made complaint to the said Snider, that he "ought not to have treated him so," for said he, "Snider, I have made for Peale this year \$1300, out of medal and other work, over his salary."

When Indian medals are made for the government, Peale takes the contract for them and makes them at the Mint, with the material and time of the government.

These medals and dies thus made for the government, he uses the dies, presses, &c., to make and vend copies of.

The amount of work done in the Mint for private persons and objects not connected with the Mint or government, is very large and is notorious, putting the Mint in competition with private enterprise.

Only lately a turning lathe was taken from the Mint and loaned to a young man just commencing business, a relative of one of the officers, and that lathe,

paid for and belonging to the government, is now in use in the private workshop of that person.

I am ready, if necessary, to answer any of these things, on a proper examination.

* * * * *

Yours, very respectfully,

W. M. SNIDER,

Hon. THOS. CORWIN,
Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 25.

We, the undersigned, who have been employed as workmen in the Mint of the United States do hereby certify : that we know the chief coiner, Franklin Peale, has carried on largely in the mint the business of making medals, to be sold for his private gain ; that we believe this has been without legal authority ; that he has used the machinery and labor of the workmen for making medals, during the regular working hours ; that the gold and silver bullion has been used by him ; that such of us as have worked in melting, casting, filing or rolling ingots into strips for his medals, he was not in the habit of paying for the work we done for him ; that we have heard some of those who put the impressions on the medals say he had made them gifts of money, but not regular payments for labor ; that we believe the laborer to be worthy of his hire, and not gifts which he may feel ashamed to receive ; that the coiner has received other services from workmen of the mint, which we look upon as improper ; and that we have always considered, and do now consider it to have been very wrong for an officer of the mint to carry on such a business in the manner in which Mr. Peale has done.

JOHN BIRNBAUN,
PHINEAS ROWAN,
WM. HANSELL,
JAMES BURROWS,
THOS. BRITTIN,
ROBERT WALLACE,
GEO. W. SUMMERS, Jr.,
H. J. FISHER,
MARTIN SUMMERS.

SECOND SERIES OF EXHIBITS.

No. 26.

WASHINGTON, January 5th, 1853.

SIR,—I hereby request that copy may be furnished to me of any report which the Director of the mint may have made to the Department upon the charges preferred by me against Franklin Peale, Esq., coiner of the mint.

Very respectfully,

W. L. HODGE, Esq.,

Ass't Sec'y of the Treas'y.

Your obt. servt.,

RICHD. S. McCULLOH.

No. 27.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philad., 13 July, 1852.

SIR,—Many months since, I had the honor to receive from the Department a copy of a memorial addressed to the President by Professor R. S. McCulloh, principally relating to the subject of his method of refining gold, and also impeaching the official conduct of Prof. Jas. C. Booth, melter and refiner of the mint, and of Franklin Peale, chief coiner. I was directed to make the necessary investigations and inquiries into the charges made against the officers of the Mint, and to report the results to the Department; and to report also as to the expedience of causing Mr. McCulloh's method of refining gold to be tried at the Mint in his presence.

I first directed my attention to the inquiry relative to the expedience of another refining experiment, and incidentally thereto examined into the charges against the melter and refiner, which mainly related to his misconduct in former investigations of Mr. McCulloh's process had at the mint. On these matters I made some time ago my report to the Department. I also began an examination into the charges against the chief coiner, but this has been interrupted, and my report on the subject delayed by a variety of causes, partly by sickness, partly by pre-occupation in other mint duties of more pressing importance. Having at length, however, completed the inquiries, which I have deemed it proper to institute on this matter, I now present the following report:

The charges to be investigated are embraced in the following paragraph in the memorial of Mr. McCulloh, viz.: "I refer to the coiner of the Mint, Franklin Peale, to whose personal hostility to myself, the result of my having refused, while I was an officer of the Mint, to furnish him facilities for carrying on an unjustifiable traffic, and mysterious influence with the late Director, many of the obstacles to the introduction into the Mint of my improved method of refining, are, I am satisfied, ascribable; whose lavish and unnecessary expenditure of public money, without adequate appropriation or useful effect; whose unofficer-like and demoralizing proceedings; whose malicious intermeddling with the duties of other officers of the Mint, and false representations of their conduct; and whose appropriation to his own benefit or gain of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled,—prove him to be flagrantly unfit for the official position he now holds.

As preliminary to my special inquiry into the above charges, I requested Mr. McCulloh to state the particular facts and circumstances to which he had thus referred in general terms, and he accordingly presented definite subjects of inquiry under each special item of charge. This paper of specifications and instances I communicated to Mr. Peale, who presented his reply thereto. I also received testimony on matters pertinent to the inquiry from some of the officers and workmen of the Mint.

After considering the various sources of information open to me, I am of opinion that, except in one particular, to which I will immediately refer, the official conduct of the chief coiner of the Mint has not been amenable to censure, or inconsistent with his duty to the Government.

I do, however, find it to be true, that Mr. Peale has, at different times, received the services of workmen in the Mint, while under pay of the Government, for his private benefit, and he is on that ground amenable to that particular charge by Mr. McCulloh, of "appropriation to his own benefit or gain of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled." The work thus done was, in the occasional repair of furniture, and in the performance of some trifling jobs at his (rented) house. In stating this fact, it is but just that I should refer to some additional circumstances which may be offered in extenuation.

It is conceded that anterior to the heavy receipts of bullion from California, there were frequently days, and sometimes weeks, when no employment whatever could be found for the workmen in the Mint. The deposits received, being dependent on constant fluctuations of trade, corresponding fluctuations in the demands on the time of the workmen were a necessary consequence. In such circumstances, the occupancy of the workmen in performing a private service was not, therefore, an interruption of any duty which was otherwise due to the Mint. It was the occupancy of time which would otherwise have been idly spent. I am assured, by the foreman of the machinists, "that Mr. Peale did not take hands away for his private use, at his house or elsewhere, to interfere with the operations of the Mint. We had much idle time previous to California gold being crowded upon the Mint. We were idle for days at a time and that very often. Sometimes we were nearly all hands idle for two or three days at a stretch, &c." It seems also to be agreed that since the time of the men has been fully occupied, by the receipts from California, no services of the kind referred to, have been asked for or rendered, and I am quite certain that during my directorship, I have neither noticed nor had reported to me any instance of this character.

I am also well convinced that the gratuitous and extra-official services rendered by Mr. Peale to the Mint, in preparing designs and drafts for new machinery, patterns, &c., for the Mint and Branch Mints, very far exceed in value any private services complained of, and should be taken into consideration in any estimate formed of his conduct from the transactions referred to. And upon the whole, I am of opinion that, while it must be conceded that the chief coiner has, in the particulars referred to, departed from the strict law of official duty, no public interest has suffered in consequence.

The final result of the inquiry which, by your instructions, I have made into the character and conduct of the chief coiner, certainly does not lead me to the judgment expressed in the conclusion of the charges by Mr. McCulloh, that he is "flagrantly unfit for the official position he now holds." I have, on the contrary, formed the opinion that Mr. Peale is eminently fit for that position, by his mechanical talents and general acquirements, by his intimate acquaintance with the art of mintage, in all its departments, by his valuable experience acquired both in the institutions of Europe and in office here, and by his close attention and scrutiny into all the details of coinage. The perfection of the machinery, and the admirable working of his department, are largely due to his talents and labor, and constitute an enduring test of his official conduct.

It is proper to add that I have acted, in the course of inquiry made by me in reference to these charges, upon the presumption that the Department has wished for a report of my *opinion* only, as the chief officer of the Mint. I have, therefore, purposely avoided a dry recital of evidence or documents, or any argumentatious commentary thereupon, as these would be tedious, and, I suppose, superfluous to the Department.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. L. HODGE, Esq.,
Acting Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

GEORGE N. ECKERT,
Director.

No. 28.

WASHINGTON, January 23, 1853.

SIR,—A copy of the report of the Director of the Mint, dated 13th July, 1852, upon charges preferred by me against the coiner, Mr. Franklin Peale, having been furnished to me, in compliance with my request, I have further to ask that you will instruct said Director to transmit to the Department the specifications, reply, testimony, evidence, and all other documents or papers referred to by the Director in his aforesaid report, or copies thereof, and that when said papers shall have been received, copies of them may be furnished to me for my information.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

HON. THOMAS CORWIN,
Secretary of the Treasury.

R. S. McCULLOH.

No. 29.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATE, }
Philadelphia, January 29, 1853. }

SIR,—I have the honor herewith to enclose papers called for in your communication of the 23d inst., and also some others which appeared to me important in the course of my investigations in relation to the charges against Mr. Franklin Peale, chief coiner of the Mint. The oral testimony called for I have not sent for the following reasons:

In conducting my investigations, I assumed, and so informed the gentleman (Mr. McCulloh) who brought the charges, that the inquiry by me was to be administrative merely; that it was to be solely for the satisfaction of my own mind. I assumed that all the Department desired, in that stage of the investigation, was to procure the opinion of the chief officer of the Mint, which was the more likely to be unbiassed, inasmuch as he had been but lately appointed to his post, and had therefore no prejudices by acquaintanceship, or long official intercourse, in favor of the individual impeached. My object, therefore, was not to collect testimony in a form fitted to convince others, but only to satisfy my own mind. In my examination of individuals I was influenced, in the opinions I deduced from them, more by the general impression left on my mind at the time than by any written memoranda which I may have preserved of such testimony. Indeed, in some cases, I have drawn my opinion from facts and statements of which I have no written record. Besides

if I had a complete record, in writing, of all the evidence I received on the subject, I do not think it would be just in me to offer it to scrutiny by third parties, as the testimony was entirely *ex parte*, the witnesses (with one exception) those named by the accusing party, and no witnesses asked for nor offered by the accused party, who was, in fact, and to this day is, ignorant that such examination was made, and had therefore no opportunity of cross-examination.

If the Department is dissatisfied that I should have simply reported my opinion, without presenting the grounds or testimony on which I based them, while I should sincerely regret to have involved it in trouble on this account, I can see no just course of procedure except to order a legal commission to take testimony in a legal form. I have some confidence in my power to arrive at truth after my own methods, but feel myself incompetent to pursue such an inquiry in that legal method which alone could present this case in a fit form to enable the Department, or the public at large, to elicit the truth for themselves.

I have seen, I may add, no cause whatever to modify the opinions stated by me in my letter of the 13th of July last, except that, by longer official connection with Mr. Peale, I have had my estimate of his abilities and eminent fitness for the position he now occupies very greatly enhanced.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

HON. THOMAS CORWIN,

(Signed.)

GEORGE N. ECKERT,

Secretary of the Treasury,

Director.

Washington.

No. 30.

CHIEF COINER'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES MINT, }
PHILADELPHIA, April 15, 1852. }

DR. GEORGE N. ECKERT,

Director of the Mint.

SIR:—I have received your communication enclosing for my perusal (1) a memorial from Prof. R. S. McCulloh to the President, accompanying a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, dated 11th of August, 1851; (2) a second letter from the Secretary of the Treasury of August 12th; (3) a letter from Prof. R. S. McCulloh, of Sept. 4th last; (4) a letter and specifications from the same gentleman, of Sept. 25. These documents having, as you state, more or less reference to charges by that gentleman, animadverting upon my conduct, which you were instructed by the Department to inquire into, you have felt it your duty to lay them before me, that I may, if I see fit, place on record a written reply thereto. Thanking you for the opportunity thus afforded to me, I now ask your consideration to the following statements in refutation of the charges brought against me. I shall present them in the order which Mr. McCulloh has followed in his so called specifications.

Previous to entering upon this task, I will, however, call your notice to an untrue allegation which he makes in his memorial, which it is the more important to consider inasmuch as it will be seen that the motives which have influenced Mr. McCulloh are malicious, and that his charges are made in revenge for my having, as he states, opposed the introduction into the Mint of a process patented by him, in the sale of which, to the Government, he had a large pecuniary interest. For he says expressly, that to my "mysterious influence with the late Director, many of the obstacles to the introduction into the Mint of his im-

proved process of refining are, he is satisfied ascribable." And he also, apparently, refers to the alleged "deference" of the melter and refiner to myself as presenting a like difficulty.

I now assert most positively, and without reserve, that no opposing influence whatever has been attempted by me in reference to the refining process of Mr. McCulloh. On the contrary, I have earnestly desired that all processes should be tried, and that any one by which the facilities of the Mint could be increased, should be successful. It was a subject of regret to me when I learned that the experiments by Mr. McCulloh's process had not given satisfaction. It is, perhaps, unnecessary for me to adduce proof on this subject, in the absence of any testimony offered other than Mr. McCulloh's unsupported assertion. I, however, send herewith a letter from the late Director, in which he explicitly states that I "always expressed a favorable opinion of the process," and that he does "not recollect to have heard from me a single suggestion adverse to the plan."

The "mysterious influence" with the late Director, Dr. R. M. Patterson, which is charged against me, is, I suppose, the friendship which began with our fathers, and has endured between us for twenty-five or thirty years, sixteen of which have been passed in the mutual relations of Director and operative officer of the Mint. My esteem for him has been unbounded and undeviating, and, I hope and flatter myself that a portion of his has been awarded to me. Perhaps these sentiments may be "mysterious" to Mr. McCulloh, and I shall make no attempt to disturb him in his opinions.

The alleged "deference" to me of the melter and refiner, Mr. Booth, though a very flattering imputation, I must humbly disclaim; and had it even any existence, it would have had no effect with reference to the process of Mr. McCulloh, respecting which, as I have already said, I was favorably disposed. But Mr. Booth is competent to form his own judgment, and to perform his own duties, and any interference of mine would be alike unjustifiable and ridiculous.

I now pass to consider the particular specifications of misconduct which Mr. McCulloh alleges against me.

The first charge is "lavish and unnecessary expenditure of public money, without adequate appropriation or useful effect."

Before examining the instances which he alleges in support of this charge, I will remind you that the entire responsibility of Mint expenditures devolves, in law, upon the Director alone. It is he who gives a warrant for the payment of every bill, and, if an expenditure is made without his authority, express or implied, he has the remedy in his own power. All that the operative officer can properly do, is to suggest or recommend to the Director the objects of expenditure; the decision is with the Director alone.

I would again remind you that the Mint expenses are examined by the auditing and controlling departments at Washington, whose duty it is to see that they are in conformity to law. To assert that a Mint officer has expended money "without adequate appropriation," is to charge a gross neglect of duty upon those departments.

But I do not wish to screen myself on technical grounds. I am quite willing to assume the responsibility of the expenditures made in my department, and, therefore, stand ready to justify those which Mr. McCulloh has particularly instanced in his specification.

He refers, first, to the fact that an appropriation of \$20,800 made May 15th, 1850, for an engine, boilers, rolls, building, chimney, &c., which was made at the request of the Director of the Mint, upon an estimate prepared by me, proved insufficient for the purposes designed. It is quite possible that such was the case. The accounts for this expenditure are kept with the general contingent expenses of the Mint, and I have not thought it of importance to endeavor

to separate them. But, conceding that the cost exceeded the amount estimated, to charge such a fact as an official misdemeanor, is something unheard of. The difficulties of an accurate estimate are well known; and if the actual cost somewhat exceeded what I had supposed, it is what has happened to thousands of others whose reputation has never been impeached on that account. It is not charged that the estimate was made with dishonest purpose, or that the expenditures actually made were for a useless or improper object, or that they were extravagant in their cost,—and I do not, therefore, perceive in what possible way I am concerned to defend myself from the allegation. I, therefore, pass on to consider the other cited instances of “lavish and unnecessary expenditure.”

The “large lathe for turning rolls” was devised and executed when *cast iron* chilled rolls were used, and was then indispensable to keep them in order. Since the introduction of *cast steel* rolls, I am very happy to say it is of much less importance. It will, nevertheless, be found sometimes necessary for repairs, and forms an important part of mint machinery.

The “steam draw bench” which he refers to, was made for the Charlotte Branch Mint, under my supervision, at the request of the Director of the Mint. On trial it did not prove sufficiently manageable. It was, therefore, altered, and is now in satisfactory use at that place.

With respect to the “set of moulds for casting large ingots, not adapted to the coining machinery, with accompanying apparatus for pouring, &c.,” the facts are as follows: when melter and refiner of the Mint, about the year 1836 or '7, I devised and prepared, by authority of the Director, a system of melting and casting ingots similar to that employed at the British mint, which after a careful examination of the mints of France, England, and some portions of Germany, I had found the best in use, not only in regard to the amounts melted, but to the perfection of pouring and casting. This system was put in successful operation, but was discontinued, at the request of the Director, in consequence of the inadequacy of the rolling department. I have not by any means changed my views in reference to this department of mint operations, and entertain the conviction that this beautiful, economical and efficient system of melting and casting is the best known or practised in any mint in the world. If we should again have a large business in silver to transact, I believe it will be found expedient again to have recourse to it, in which case the pouring machine and rolls will also be available.

The “ridiculous trumpet blowing sofa” was made for my office by the carpenter of the mint when his services were not required for more important work. It is of white pine and painted; the sofa or settee as plain as possible; the upholstery and appendages principally, if not entirely, the work of my own hands. The alarm which it is capable of sounding may or may not be considered an important safeguard in the premises. You have had the sofa in your own office, and can judge whether it is not a useful rather than a “fanciful” object, as asserted, and whether the most “ridiculous” matter connected with it is not the charge of misdemeanor in office for its construction.

The “excessively ornamented case and stand for a balance” you have frequently had an opportunity of examining for yourself. The stand is of cast iron, of simple design; the case, though somewhat ornate, is not of costly character. The whole arrangement is in consistency with what was requisite for an instrument designed as a model balance, and constantly in use for one of the most delicate and important operations of the mint, that by which the integrity of the deliveries of coin from the coiner to the Treasurer, and thence to the public, is and has been maintained.

But as Mr. McCulloh has adverted to this subject, I hope I shall be excused if I occupy some further space; for in this matter I boldly claim to have done

for the Mint and my country much that will entitle me to gratitude, and which cannot be altered by a paragraph or insinuation.

When employed on a special mission in Europe, in relation to the whole field of mint operations, and collateral subjects, the balances for weighing claimed a portion of my attention. I saw the indispensable importance of securing instruments of this kind, which, by their simplicity and philosophical construction, should be reliable in their indications, and not easily subject to derangement. When appointed to office in the Mint, I gave to this important subject my best powers of reflection and experiment. In the result, I have produced balances, made from my own drawings, and under my personal inspection, which after trials, in daily use, for many years, have been found entirely satisfactory to a degree, I am confident, hitherto unattained in any other country. My labors in perfecting these instruments have been freely bestowed without charge or compensation, or other benefit to myself personally than results from the confidence and satisfaction which result from their use. Previous to their construction it was a common mint saying, that no two weighings could be made alike, now every anxiety from this source is, I am happy to say, entirely removed.

I will remark, that of the many balances, large and small, made under my supervision for the Mint, Mr. McCulloh has hunted up the single instance in which ornament has been introduced; but he could not see seventy or eighty others, in which there is no ornament whatever save "beauty of fitness," and in which the designs are carefully digested both to avoid expense and for facility of construction. The objects and results of my experiments and improvements in this department being developed in an article on balances which I published in the Franklin Institute Journal, I have the pleasure herewith to send you a copy of the same.

The second head of charges against me is, for "unofficerlike and demoralizing proceedings."

The first specification alleged by him, under this head, is that on the occasion of President Polk's visit to the Mint, I caused to be struck and presented to him a copper medal; that I charged the Mint therewith, having caused a bill for many times its cost to be made out, in the name of George Hall, a workman; that the payment being disapproved by some of the officers, a contribution to refund the amount was taken up by Mr. Dubois, assistant assayer.

It is quite true that a medal was struck as stated, and it certainly appears to me that the occasion was an appropriate one. It is certainly a very bold charge that a proceeding was "unofficerlike and demoralizing" which took place in the presence of the President, Vice-President, Attorney-General, and other government officers, as well as the Director of the Mint.

It is not true that I "charged the mint therewith." No charge was ever made or contemplated for the medals struck on that occasion. The cases and gilding, which were done outside of the Mint, were alone charged for. It appears from the records that the bill was made out in the name of Mr. Hall, the weigher in my department. Whether he personally ordered the articles I do not know. He generally purchases the trifling materials required in that office, and renders bills therefor; and frequently, also, has attended to the purchase of medal cases. But, in truth, of the circumstances attending this particular transaction I have no recollection whatever. It appears, however, that the bill against the Mint was withdrawn, and the amount paid by a contribution from the officers, collected by Mr. Dubois, assistant assayer. The letter from that gentleman to yourself explains the whole transaction, and I leave it to your own judgment to detect the extent to which it was an "unofficerlike and demoralizing proceeding."

The second specification under the above head of charges being covered by

the fourth charge, my reply to the latter will be found a complete answer. I therefore pass on to consider the third charge.

The third charge is for "malicious intermeddling with the duties of other officers of the Mint, and false representations of their conduct."

The first instance alleged is, that I withheld from J. B. Longacre, Esq., Engraver of the Mint, the necessary facilities for obtaining impressions of the double-eagle die; that he made complaint thereof to the Director, but that I influenced the latter to advise him to resign, on the alleged ground of an imperative communication from Government; that the Engraver thereupon visited Washington and learned from the Secretary that representations had been made relative to his aforesaid official work, calculated to create false impressions, and to procure his removal from office.

In connection with this subject, you have also communicated to me a letter of Mr. Longacre to yourself, of November 13, 1851, in which he presents statements supposed to be in corroboration of this charge.

That I have ever interfered with the duties of the Engraver of the Mint I must emphatically deny. I, on the contrary, assert that I have at all times furnished him every proper facility which it was in my power to offer in the prosecution of his official labors; whether by the services of the workmen or apparatus in my department, or by information on details with which I became acquainted when on a visit to the mints of Europe. To cite a single instance, I will mention that on the occasion of the gold dollar and double eagle being legalized by the action of Congress, I caused him to be supplied with discs of proper curvature without delay, his model was electrotyped under my personal inspection, and, after the casting was made, placed in the lathe with my own hands, and the reductions made without the loss of an hour, or even minute, available time; and throughout the whole process, to the striking of the coin, I gave all the assistance in my power, being most anxious that the desires of the public should be met with the least possible delay.

I am not assured that any workman in the Mint, although many have witnessed the operation, could have made the reduction referred to, but I am certainly assured that Mr. Longacre could not have done it. This fact, and I need not refer to others, render it almost incomprehensible to me that Mr. Longacre should have been called in to give evidence of obstruction under such circumstances.

So far from their having been interferences with the Engraver, on my part, the acts alleged were on the contrary required from my official position, that they have been misconstrued I regret; but under similar circumstances I should certainly feel constrained to a similar conduct.

That I may be understood, I will briefly state, as a proposition that cannot be disputed, that the chief coiner is the only official and competent judge of what is proper in the depth, curvature, and other mechanical qualities of dies intended for coining money, and therefore, so far as these qualities are concerned, is bound to exercise his judgment, and give his opinion. It is necessary that the work of the Engraver should conform to the exigencies of the operation of coinage, and the materials of which the dies are constructed. To secure these results, and for no other object, I have exercised an undoubted right of judgment on the work of Mr. Longacre.

Contrary to my advice and expressed opinion, the dies of the double-eagle were made with a depth of design and other defects which made them unsuited for the purpose of coinage. They were medal dies rather than coinage dies, a difference which will be well understood by any professional die sinker for coins. As a necessary consequence, they would give way under the excessive labor of coinage, and so in fact it proved; for all satisfactory purposes the double-eagle dies were destroyed within an hour.

It is a well known fact that from the delays in the Engraver's office in producing dies, first for the gold dollar, then for the double-eagle, a great deal of public censure was excited; this was visited sometimes upon the Director, sometimes upon the Chief Coiner, sometimes upon the whole body of officers, but never, that I am aware, upon the only officer on whom the responsibility rested. It was at last announced that the dies were complete, and the Secretary of the Treasury had given authority to strike the coin. The impossibility of using the dies in actual coinage would, I had no doubt, tend to create public disappointment from the continued delay. As it was my duty to report the failure to the Director, I determined, in view of the circumstances, to place that report in writing. It was in the following words:

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Philadelphia, December 24, 1849.

SIR,—It is with extreme regret, and after the most earnest endeavors to overcome the difficulty, that I am compelled to inform you that the impression upon the new die for the double eagle cannot be brought up by the usual coining process. The depth of the head of the obverse is such, that the steel will not sustain the degree of pressure necessary for a perfect impression.

To this is to be added the minor disadvantage of the projection of the head beyond the border of the coin, preventing its being "piled" (as it is technically expressed) and exposing it to abrasion.

Very respectfully,

Your obdt. servant,

Dr. R. M. PATTERSON,
Director.

(Signed)

F. PEALE.
Chief Coiner.

Whether the above letter had any influence in the subsequent acts relative to the continuance of Mr. Longacre in his office I cannot pretend to say; but I do positively assert that the insinuation by Mr. Longacre that I was the "source of hostility" to which he attributes those acts is entirely without foundation. It will not be pretended, I presume, that there was an impropriety in my official letter to the Director, nor that the facts therein stated were untrue, being notorious in the Mint.

Indeed, no other proof of the imperfection of the original dies need be adduced than the fact that they had to be cut down before they could be fitted for the mechanical operation of coinage. But while effecting this object, the relief of the figure of Liberty has been necessarily injured in some parts, while in others it is still too great, and it remains, on the whole, a coin very far from creditable to the country. If Mr. Longacre had the merit, as a die sinker, which he arrogates to himself, (he says that he has "never known his character as an artist to be seriously assailed;") it is strange that he should allow his reputation to be periled by continuing to submit to the criticism of judges and artists, at home and abroad, so imperfect a specimen of his professional talents, more particularly as his almost uninterrupted leisure has given him an ample opportunity to review his first attempt. It is perfectly well known that since the process of reproducing dies, by mechanical means was introduced by me into the Mint, the office of engraver has become a sinecure, except when Congress orders a new coin, involving the necessity of a new original die. Since the double eagle die was finished, the engraver's official labors have consisted in making (by the aid of a regularly educated die sinker from New York) the new dies for the three cent pieces, and in striking in the dates of the year, on the dies reproduced in the coining department, a matter within the capacity of an ordinary mechanic. He has, therefore, had ample

opportunity not simply of making new original double eagle dies, but also of improving the artistic beauty of the whole series of our coins; an opportunity of which an ambitious or competent artist could hardly have failed to avail himself.

It has been made a subject of complaint, that I declined to let Mr. Longacre have one of the first impressions, in gold, of his double eagle die. To this I reply, that the engraver had in his own possession all the usual, and as it is supposed satisfactory means of taking impressions employed by die sinkers, and I besides offered him every facility of inspection, as well as impressions in silver, or any other metal equally well suited to the engraver's purposes. To assert that there was any peculiar importance in having the impression in *gold* is to me inexplicable. The die-sinker does not require a proof impression in gold, before he completes his work; on the contrary, the only impression in gold which he ever sees, is that on the completed medal. I believed then, that I knew Mr. Longacre's real object, and now am convinced of it. It was to exhibit the pieces asked for as triumphant evidences of his success, and by way of confuting to ignorant parties, the fact of the unfitness of the dies for coinage; for it is well known that a few single impressions from dies, with the depth and characteristics of a medal can be very well made by a single, but excessive, application of the power of the coining press, and to the eyes of the public will present a bold, effective, and it may be attractive appearance, but the experienced in the operation of coining show that the dies must soon fail, and the machinery suffer under the excess of labor to which they are subjected. As the piece asked for was in my legal custody alone, and as I did not choose to permit Mr. Longacre to use it for the purpose of taking a snap judgment, which should controvert facts known to every practical man in the Mint, I very properly declined to hand it to him.

I have dwelt perhaps unnecessarily upon this subject, which I now dismiss, merely adding that I was not "cognizant of" or "mainly instrumental" in a supposed attempt to substitute a different design for the three cent piece than that made by the engraver, and am quite ignorant of any such design. I do not know of any one in the mint who had such a desire.

The second specification under the head of malicious intermeddling with other officers of the mint, occupies over two pages of letter paper, and I cannot present it even in abstract, so vague are the charges. My answers will, however, sufficiently indicate them.

It is mentioned that I declined to receive ingots, "through the hands of Prof. J. B. Reynolds, then (Mr. McCulloh's) accomplished and meritorious assistant." The facts are simply these. It had always been the custom for the melter and refiner to deliver, and the chief coiner to receive ingots in person. On one of these occasions I was surprised to find Mr. Reynolds in the usual place of the melter and refiner. I sought an interview with the Director, and asked what was Mr. Reynolds' position, whether an assistant to the melter and refiner, or a clerk, or a workman, in either of which contingencies I should, as an equal right, ask to employ some one to aid me in a similar capacity in my own department, or that the melter and refiner should attend in person as heretofore. His reply was, that he was recognized and paid as a workman, and he directed Mr. McCulloh to deliver the ingots as before. It was by McCulloh, therefore, that Mr. Reynolds was placed in a subordinate position, and while he occupied that position, high as was my regard for him and my admiration for his talents, my official self respect required of me the conduct which I pursued.

It is insinuated that I influenced the late Director to the non-fulfilment of an alleged understanding that Mr. Reynolds should be appointed assistant melter and refiner, if his services should be found necessary, and that conse-

quently Mr. Reynolds had, in self respect, to withdraw from the mint, "which lost to the Government the services of a valuable officer, and to our country his life."

In reply to all this, I state that I had nothing whatever to do, directly or indirectly, with Mr. Reynolds' appointment or non-appointment or withdrawal from the mint. I knew nothing of the causes, and had about the same degree of influence in regard to the circumstances as I had in the explosion of the boiler, by which, much to the regret of every man of common humanity, he lost his life, an event foisted into these charges with no other view, apparently, than to make capital of moral feeling against me. But this I know, that I subsequently found him in a position vastly better suited to his talents, and far more likely to improve his pecuniary resources, than the subordinate one in which Mr. McCulloh placed him.

I am also, apparently made responsible for the scientific demerits of a young man selected by the present melter and refiner, to fill a place similar to the one occupied by Mr. Reynolds. This is a matter with which manifestly, I have no special concern. I will venture, however, the remark that the place filled by the person whose character he assails is not that of "assistant to the melter and refiner of the mint," so that it is not to be expected that he should possess "appropriate scientific qualifications for" a post he does not pretend to occupy. He is a workman who aids the melter and refiner in making up melts, in weighing and other such matters appropriate to an operative, for which he receives workman's wages. I may add that no melter and refiner but Mr. McCulloh appears ever to have asked for an *assistant*, under the mint law; and the fact that none has been found necessary, notwithstanding the heavy business of late years, may furnish the true reason why the Director declined to ask the President to authorize such an office, when Mr. McCulloh made the request.

The fourth and last charge made against me is for "appropriation to his own benefit, or gain, of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled."

It is well known, and the statistics of coinage prove the fact, that there are frequently times (and particularly was this so before the opening of the California mines) during which the workmen of the Mint are not occupied. The nature of the business is such, depending as it does upon the influx and efflux of precious metals, that intervals of pressure and cessation are alternate. Periods of considerable length have sometimes occurred, in which it was impossible to find employment for the workmen. Under such circumstances, I freely admit that I have sometimes accepted voluntary services, always of a trifling character, and have asked like services, which have been rendered. But I have never *required* them, as alleged, and I also aver that the operations of the Mint were never, in the slightest degree, impeded or neglected on that account, and that satisfactory remuneration, or other services, have been made in return for such favors.

The next instance of misappropriation specified against me, is that I manufactured at the Mint medals for sale "without authority of law, at the expense of the United States, except for the metals whereof they were made, and, perhaps, some other materials, and without just distribution of the profits of said business to the workmen who performed the labor."

The business of striking medals at the Mint was prosecuted before I entered the Mint, by my predecessor in office, the late venerable and much loved Adam Eckfeldt, who was commissioned by General Washington, and served the Government during about half a century, with a degree of faithfulness and devotion, with a purity of heart and purpose, rarely if ever excelled. It is this exemplary man who has been virtually attacked by Mr. McCulloh.

Although the striking of medals is very appropriate to the constitution and organization of the Mint, yet there is nothing in existing laws which requires

any services of that kind of the chief coiner, or any other officer. Yet, from the administration of Washington, the general government has felt the necessity of calling in the aid of the chief coiner to prepare the national medals. In so doing it has always treated with that officer on a private footing, and has compensated him for his trouble. It cannot surely be alleged as an impropriety, that for private services thus rendered at the request of the Government, and paid by Government, the chief coiner is liable to censure.

Occasionally, also, private medals have been struck for different states, societies, or for individuals, for which the consent of the Department was, in many cases, asked, and never refused. Latterly, since the complaints of Mr. McCulloh, such consent has been asked, in every case, through yourself, and always granted. It is manifest, therefore, that what appears to that gentleman so gross an impropriety, makes no such impression on others.

The trifling advantage which the chief coiner derives from the manufacture of medals is not at the expense of the United States, as charged. The only advantage he derives from his position is in the use of the old coining machine, now dispensed with for Mint operations. The materials and the compensation of workmen are at the chief coiner's charge, and the regular labors of the Mint are never interrupted. Under such circumstances I can see no ground for exception.

Having, as I believe, fully disproved the allegation of improper conduct in the manufacture of medals, I will take the opportunity to add that, although the law devolves no duty upon the chief coiner in reference to the collection and custody of dies and medals, yet, at an early period after entering on my office, I formed the plan of collecting in the Mint, for permanent preservation, as extensive a series as was possible of our national, state and private medal dies. A few of the former, which were in the Mint, I catalogued and arranged at once. I also obtained the co-operation of different Secretaries at Washington, (Messrs. Poinsett, Paulding, Spencer, and Upshur,) by whose aid, with much trouble on my part, I have succeeded at length in procuring a very complete series of such dies, properly arranged. Without such pains they would probably, in a few years, have been lost or destroyed; now they are likely to be permanently preserved, and copies of medals from them may be, if necessary, at any time reproduced. In the Museum of medals in Paris, we have an admirable institution where all dies, national and otherwise, are preserved, and the collection dates from the earliest ages of the art. It is sincerely to be hoped that some day a Medallie Establishment may be attached to this Mint, by authority of law, for the preserving to posterity of these "pledges of history." In the meantime, as the law assigns no duties on the subject, it is desirable that it shall be made the interest of the chief coiner to assume them himself, by allowing him the privilege of striking copies when required. Not for myself do I make this remark, for I shall preserve these dies, while they remain under my influence, as sacred deposits, of too great value to be neglected or lost, without regard to any ulterior interest.

Very respectfully, &c.,

DR. GEO. N. ECKERT,
Director.

(Signed.)

FRANKLIN PEALE.
Chief Coiner.

No. 31.

U. S. MINT, November 13th, 1851.

SIR,—I am called upon, by your note of the 8th instant, to testify in regard to a certain transaction in the Mint, recited in these words: "that a copper medal was struck on the occasion of President Polk's visit to the Mint; that

a bill therefor was made out against the Mint in the name of George Hall, workman, and paid, the amount being greater than it could have cost; that this proceeding being disapproved, the amount was refunded to the Mint by the officers, a contribution having been taken up for that purpose by yourself."

In answer to which, I have to state that this occurrence was so nearly forgotten, that I have been obliged to refresh my memory in regard to it, by recurring to such entries as are to be found in records of the Mint. Those entries are of course within your reach; and I shall only refer to them for the sake of making my own statement the more intelligible:

First, There is a memorandum which shows that on the 24th June, 1847, the Mint was visited by the President, Vice-President, Attorney General, and other officers of the General Government.

Secondly, There is the margin or butt of a warrant, in the warrant-book, for ordinary expenses of the Mint, bearing date July 9th, 1847, and showing the issue of a warrant in favor of George Hall, to pay a bill "for six medal cases, and gilding three medals," amounting to seventeen dollars; and thereon is a receipt for the same, signed by George Hall. The entry is cancelled, and on its margin is written "withdrawn." It is to be presumed that the bill and warrant were at the same time destroyed; at any rate, I am not aware that there are any entries or records in the Mint, except the two just noticed, bearing upon the subject.

I may also state, (without having been actually a witness to the fact,) that it is well known in the Mint, that on the occasion above mentioned, several medals of President Polk were struck and placed in morocco cases, and presented to the President and gentlemen of his suit.

For the rest, I remember distinctly, that soon after this transaction I was informed by the clerk having charge of the ordinary accounts, that such a bill had been presented and paid upon a warrant made out by himself. In mentioning the matter to me, he objected to it as an impropriety, and thought it more becoming that such an item of expense should be defrayed amongst the officers and clerks of the Mint. Concurring with him in this view, I represented the matter to the Director of the Mint, and with his approbation I made an apportionment of the bill, and collected it without difficulty or objection from the officers and clerks, I believe not including the chief coiner, by whom or under whose superintendence the medals were struck and encased. The money then collected was paid into the treasury of the Mint and the warrant cancelled.

Although I am not the most competent witness, as to the inquiry made of me, whether the amount of the bill was greater than it should have been, I have sufficient knowledge of the costs of medal cases, and of gilding medals, to express the belief, that the amount was not greater than the manufacturers' prices. To which I have nothing further to add.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

DR. G. N. ECKERT,
Director U. S. Mint.

WM. E. DU BOIS,
Assistant Assayer.

No. 32.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Philad., Nov. 13th, 1850.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 8th inst., requesting me "to communicate in writing such circumstances as I may deem pertinent thereto," respecting a charge preferred by R. S. McCulloh, Esq.,

against the chief coiner of the Mint, of "malicious intermeddling with the duties of other officers of the Mint and false representations of their conduct."

Regarding your request as one of official obligation, it becomes my duty to reply as fully and impartially as my knowledge of circumstances enables me to do; at the same time, there is an apparent propriety in limiting my reply to matters more especially affecting my own office, and its consequent relations with the other departments, and the general regulations of the Mint. I shall therefore attempt to state only such facts as, while affecting my own position, have appeared to me to have a direct bearing upon the points embraced in the charge, leaving it to your better judgment to give them such character and importance as they may appear to you to merit.

It may be necessary here, to remark, that the order of business apparently established, prior to my induction to office in the Mint, was, and has continued to be, such as placed under the immediate control of the chief coiner, much of the machinery and mechanical appliances and apparatus, used *in*, and essential *to*, the operations of the engraver; although the preparation of the dies, as well as the engraving, is by law assigned to the engraver of the Mint.

On my introduction to the office I hold, I was instructed by the Director, that the foreman of the chief coiner, was the person on whom I was expected to call for any mechanical aid or assistance required in my operations; which instruction was given in the presence of the chief coiner.

To the best of my recollection, (for I have not the precise date,) it was some time in May or June, 1849, after the design for the reverse of the double eagle, had been made by me, and approved, it became necessary for me to prepare a model from this design for the original die. I accordingly called on the person before mentioned to prepare me a metallic disk for this purpose; but shortly found that he was not permitted to proceed with the work. When I enquired the cause, I learned that the chief coiner had forbidden him, asserting that it would not answer, or was of no use; on my making known, however, to the Director this interference, the workman was allowed to proceed agreeably to my directions. I do not pretend to give any character to this act of interference, it was the occasion of delay for the time, and its object to me was unaccountable.

On the 26th of January, 1850, on a trial of my original dies for the double eagle, at the large press in the room of the chief coiner, and in his presence, several pieces were struck in gold, which were not altogether satisfactory, as the impression was not so full as desired; the chief coiner particularly objecting, that the work on the dies was too deep. Wishing to remedy this defect, in order to guide me intelligently in the delicate work yet required for perfecting the dies, I deemed it important to have by me, for the time, one of the pieces then struck, and requested the temporary use of one of them from this officer for the purpose; he refused my request on the ground, at first, of some alleged or apprehended difficulty in making up his accounts; I then offered to deposit the value in his hands from my own pocket, solely with the view to expedite the public business, when he refused absolutely and on any terms to allow me the use of one (of) those pieces; and on my inquiry as to what he expected me to do, under such circumstances—with some hesitation he remarked, that I might have an impression in silver. This alternative I had to accept; but it was neither satisfactory nor safe for my operations, from the difference in malleability of the metal, not being that in which the coin was to appear.

I need scarcely remark to you, I presume, that proper facilities for obtaining *trial* impressions of his work, are of the utmost importance to every engraver, who has any reputation for skill in his art, to maintain; and in the case of the engraver of the Mint, cannot be dispensed with, without danger, or manifest detriment to the public estimation of his official capacity.

The facts above stated were communicated in writing to the Director of the

Mint at the time; but so far as I have information, he did not see fit to interfere for my protection. A few days subsequently to this transaction, however, he called on me privately in my room, when he stated that he had the painful intelligence to communicate to me that my removal from office had been determined on by the government, and advised me rather urgently to send in my resignation without delay. I was surprised and troubled at this communication, because it was, under the circumstances, a mortifying termination to a severe and painful effort to sustain, single-handed, the recently arduous requirements of my office. I knew that I had labored faithfully, and I had never known my character as an artist to be seriously assailed. In the absence of positive information, these incidents were of a character to excite the suspicion of secret and unfriendly interference. I resolved not to use the haste that was recommended in throwing up my commission, but first to seek an interview with the Secretary of the Treasury, who was then Mr. Meredith of this city, and with whom, from my previous acquaintance, I had not the slightest cause to apprehend an unfriendly purpose. My interview disclosed the fact that misrepresentations had been made to him respecting my official qualifications, of an insidious and injurious character. As he did not offer to communicate the authority, I did not learn it. I asked no more than the privilege of making my own statement of facts in relation to the matters at issue, which I did not fear to challenge the world to invalidate. The effect of my statement then made in writing to the Secretary, authorising him to make any use of it required by the public welfare, may be inferred from the indefinite postponement of the measure advised by my superior officer.

I assign no particular character to the act of inference I have last narrated; but as my representation, made to the Director at the time, failed to obtain for me any apology, explanation or redress; and as the characteristic urbanity of this officer (the Director), in my intercourse with him at other points, precluded to my mind the idea that any unfriendliness towards me could originate with him, I was necessarily compelled to look to some other source for the hostility developed by the matters transpiring immediately thereafter, as I have stated; and these being not without influence upon my own conclusions, I could not detach them from a fair statement without depriving you of some of the advantages of inference possessed by myself.

The "legal devices and inscriptions" on the coin are expressly included in the law designating the duties of the Engraver of the Mint, and are not mentioned in connection with the duties of any other officer, which (in my view) gives him the proper control of this matter, and it cannot therefore pertain to another. The Chief Coiner, however, has interfered in this matter on certain occasions and, as I think, improperly, if not prejudicially.

After the die for the double eagle had been completed so far as to be struck, the Chief Coiner demanded that the position of the head of liberty on the obverse die should be changed, contrary to my judgment and wishes; and which, if his demand had been complied with, must have delayed the issue of the coin, and thereby have hindered the public service, while the alteration he required was not desired nor approved of, so far as I could learn, by any other than himself, and was, as a matter of right, beyond the limit of his official duties.

After I had completed the engraving of the dies for the *three cent coin* from designs of my own which had previously been approved by the Director, and a satisfactory trial had been made of them, an effort was made to substitute other devices that had been prepared for another coin fourteen or fifteen years before, instead of those which I had made, contrary to my judgment, and not in accordance with the act of Congress providing for the issue of this coin. Circumstances at the time led me to suppose that the Chief Coiner was not only cog-

nizant of, but mainly instrumental in this attempt to supercede my labors; but as I had no intercourse with him directly, I do not desire to say that such was the fact. In this, as in other cases, I have not sought to trace the origin of the annoyance it occasioned me, preferring the peaceful occupation of my official duties.

With very sincere respect,
I, remain, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES B. LONGACRE.

G. N. ECKERT, Esq.,
Director of the Mint. }

No. 33.

HALL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,
Philad., Oct. 25, 1851.

G. N. ECKERT, Esq.,
Director U. S. Mint.

SIR,—The Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania, for the promotion of the Mechanic Arts, are now holding their 21st exhibition of American Manufactures in the city of Philadelphia.

The rewards it gives for products of art, &c., deemed worthy of premium are medals and certificates.

Since the establishment of the Institute in the year 1824, all its medals have been struck at the Mint of the United States, and the dies therefore have been prepared by the Institute at a great expense for, and could probably only be used by the machinery of the Mint.

We do not believe it possible at the present time to have the medals now about to be awarded struck elsewhere. The delay which would inevitably attend any effort to make new arrangements for obtaining the medals would deprive them of the great value which a prompt distribution of them always gives. It seems proper too, that our medals should go forth to the world in such a style of execution as is creditable to the particular art from which they have their origin, and the National Mint seems to us to be the appropriate place whence they should issue.

We have hitherto had no difficulty in making satisfactory arrangements for receiving them promptly at seasons of exhibition and we respectfully request that you will direct these new medals to be struck for us.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

S. V. MERRICK,

President F. I.

The exhibition will close on Saturday, November 1, 1851, when the awards will be made.

No. 34.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Phila., 27 Oct., 1851.

SIR,—I have the honor to call your attention to the enclosed copy of a communication from the President of the Franklin Institute, of this city, requesting that the medals to be distributed to exhibitors at their exhibition, may be struck at the Mint. It has been usual for the chief coiner of the Mint to strike medals for the above and other institutions for a great time past. Of late years some exceptions has been taken to these proceedings, and particularly in seve-

ral communications and memorials, by Prof. R. S. McCulloh. The exceptions taken by that gentlemen are, *First*, that the machinery of the Mint is used for a private gain; *Second*, that the time of the workman of the Mint is unlawfully consumed in the production of this work, also for private gain. These objections having been made a subject of special charge by him, in a memorial to the President, and having been referred to me for investigation, which I have not yet been able thoroughly to complete.

I do not feel myself authorized to permit the proposed medals to be struck without the express permission of the Department. To assist your decision, I will state the circumstances attending these transactions, as far as I have ascertained them from inquiries already made.

As to the manufacture of the medals for private gain, this is notorious and not denied. The duties of the chief coiner are defined by law, and there is nothing which makes it obligatory on him to make such medals without due compensation. This is recognized by the government itself, when government medals are struck by the same officer. In such cases, he has always made his private contract with the particular Department, and the payment has been for his private benefit; of course the same kind of contract is to be expected when medals are made for other than government use.

As to the propriety of such manufacture at all, by the chief coiner or any other person in the Mint, I express no opinion, simply stating, as a matter of fact, that the use of the government machinery for that purpose is in no manner detrimental to it.

Of course the employment of Mint workmen for a private object, to the injury of the government, cannot be justified. That this has never been done by the chief coiner when striking these medals, I will not, until further examination, undertake to say. There can of course be no objection, provided medal making be allowed at all, in employing, on their own terms, the services of workmen of the Mint when not engaged in public duties. I trust that it will be found, on more strict inquiry, that the conduct of the chief coiner has been carefully guarded on this point. But however that may have been heretofore, it is easy to prevent abuses in this particular for the future, by prohibiting the manufacture of medals during the working hours of the Mint.

In conclusion, I will ask the opinion of the department on the several points referred to. *First*, as to allowing the chief coiner to strike medals in the Mint for private corporations or individuals. *Second*, as to allowing him the use of the old hand coining press for that purpose. *Third*, as to permitting him to employ to assist him in his undertaking, workmen of the Mint, due measures being taken to prevent abuses in any case.

A letter from the former director to the Department, dated 26 Feb'y, 1850, may be referred to as pertinent to the whole subject.

As the Franklin Institute awards are made on Saturday next, an early answer is desirable.

Very respectfully yours,

HON. THOS. CORWIN,
Secretary of the Treasury.

(Signed,) G. N. ECKERT,
Director.

No. 35.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, }
October 30, 1851. }

SIR :—I am in the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst., enclosing a copy of one addressed to you by the President of the Franklin Institute.

The Department is desirous of furnishing all the proper facilities in its power for the execution of the medals referred to, and can perceive no objection to

the employment of the coiner at the Mint to strike the medals, or to the use of the coining presses for that purpose, provided that they are to receive no detriment, and provided, also, that the work be not done during the usual working hours at the Mint, or at such periods as to interfere in any manner with the regular operations of that establishment.

I am, very respectfully,

(Signed)

THOMAS CORWIN,
Secretary Treasury.

DR. G. N. ECKERT,
Director of the Mint, Philadelphia. }

No. 36.

WASHINGTON CITY, 18th November, 1850.

DEAR SIR:—The enclosed slip was transmitted to me yesterday by the President.

You will please inform me as early as possible of the facts alluded to in it.

Very respectfully,

THOMAS CORWIN.

DR. PATTERSON, Philadelphia.

From the Evening Express, New-York, Thursday evening, November 14th, 1850.

TO THE EDITORS.

An article appeared in your evening paper a short time since, setting forth the disgraceful manner in which the medals ordered by Congress to be presented to General Taylor were executed in the Mint. The writer of the article has forbore to inform the public of the full extent of the abuses practiced in the Mint at Philadelphia with reference to the manufacture of medals.

For some time past the *officers of the Mint* have been in the habit of making medals, not only for the Government to be distributed to the Indian tribes, or presented to our victorious generals, but also for *private persons* and *corporations*; and this business is said to have been carried on for *their profit*, and to an extent which has added largely to the compensation of their offices.

It does not appear by the published laws of the United States that Congress has ever given authority to persons employed in the Mint thus to convert it into a *workshop for their private gain*, nor even that medals may be made in the Mint for the Government, as a source of pecuniary benefit to its salaried officers. But however that may be, there certainly can be no sufficient valid excuse offered to justify those officers in employing the facilities of the Mint, at the expense of the United States, to make medals for private persons and institutions, and for their own gain, thereby interfering and competing with the legitimate art and industry of the country, to the disadvantage thereof. Such protection of industry is protection with a vengeance. The whole business is *corrupt*, and the officers engaged in it deserve the severest censure. And if the President has overlooked such official misconduct, then Congress should see to it, and deal with those who have thus abused the responsible stations they occupy as they justly merit.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philad., 23d Nov. 1850.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 18th inst., inclosing a slip from the New York Express, censuring the practice of making medals in the Mint, and in reply to the President's request indicated by you, that the matter should be investigated, I beg leave to present the following explanations :

It may be stated, first, that the engraving and striking of medals, national or private, has no place in our code of Mint laws, and of course forms no part of the functions of the Mint.

In the next place, it is obvious that the making of medals is an art not to be looked for, at least not in any perfection, in a new country, or in a country where the arts are comparatively in their infancy. Consequently, until within a very recent date, there has always been some difficulty in executing orders of this kind from Congress, or from the Department of War, and the Navy, or other sources. At first the dies were engraved in France ; afterwards we had to avail ourselves of the aid of a very moderate artist from Europe, who resided here awhile, and eventually went back again for want of employment ; and subsequently to this, attempts were made to accomplish the object by a larger use and combination of mechanical means, such as the electrotype and portrait lathe.

But beyond the difficulty of procuring suitable dies, there was no facility in the country, except at the Mint, for the various mechanical but critical operations requisite for striking the medal, consequently the department have hitherto put this work into the charge of the chief coiner of the Mint, and paid him for attending to it. And at various times that officer has obtained permission to do the same thing for states, corporations and individuals.

Within a very recent period, we may say three or four years, this branch of art has received a forward impulse, and we have now, especially in New York and Boston, medal engravers whose productions are honorable to themselves and to the country. It would seem from the allegations in this printed article, that these artists are perfectly qualified also to prepare the planchets and to strike the medals. Without yielding the question of our superiority or facilities in that respect, it may be suggested that the friends of those gentlemen, instead of using anonymous newspaper attacks, should have applied at once to the Departments for the next job of this kind. As it is, and to obviate the jealousies which seem to have originated these attacks, it is a very proper subject for consideration whether, as a medal of President Fillmore is now due, the preparation of the die should not be given for competition amongst artists, in which case the striking of the medals may be, as heretofore, confided to the coiner of the Mint, or to the engraver of the dies, as may be preferred. The Departments could then judge whether a change of this kind would be advantageous.

In the last place, as it is competent to the Secretary of the Treasury to forbid the further striking of private medals, or to allow it under specific restrictions, that subject is respectfully referred to his decision. I think it proper, however, to state, in view of the charges alleged of a personal gain to the chief coiner from his official position, that I have his assurance, in a written memorandum which he has presented to me on this subject, that "the use of the machinery is all the advantage accruing to him, and does not in any way interfere with the usual Mint operations."

I have only further to add, in proof that there is no disposition at the Mint to exclude competent assistance in the making of medals when obtainable, that

Mr. Wright, of New York, was selected by me at the request of the Department, and on recommendation of the chief coiner, to execute the dies for the Scott and Taylor (Buena Vista) medals, and also of the medal ordered lately for the officers and men of certain foreign navies, who rendered assistance at the shipwreck of the Somers. When the first Taylor medal was executed, Mr. Wright was unknown to us.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
(Signed,)

R. M. PATTERSON.

HON. THOS. CORWIN,
Secy. of the Treasury.

ERRATA.

Page 10, instead of "twenty-five or thirty years ago" read, "and has endured between us for twenty-five or thirty years."

Page 22, line 10 from bottom, instead of "preserved" read "pursued."